



Pallbearers carry a coffin towards a hearse during a ceremony to mark the return of the first bodies, of passengers and crew killed in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, from Ukraine at Eindhoven military air base, Netherlands, Wednesday, July 23, 2014.

(AP Photo/Phil Nijhuis)

40 Bodies From MH17 Solemnly Returned To Dutch Soil

DOROTHEE THIESING
MSTYSLAV CHERNOV
Associated Press
EINDHOVEN, Netherlands
(AP) — Victims of the Malaysian jetliner shot down over Ukraine returned at last Wednesday to Dutch soil in 40 wooden coffins, solemnly and gently carried to 40 identical hearses, flags at half-staff flapping

in the wind. The carefully choreographed, nearly silent ceremony contrasted sharply with the boom of shells and shattered glass in eastern Ukraine as pro-Russian rebels fought to hang onto territory and shot down two Ukrainian fighter jets. The bold new attack showed the separatists are not shy-

ing away from shooting at the skies despite international outrage and grief at the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17. Even though they are still unidentified, the corpses that arrived on two military transport planes in Eindhoven were embraced by a nation unmoored by the loss of so many people

caught in someone else's faraway war. Boys going to visit their grandparents, a flight attendant hurrying to get home, a bouncer heading to see his sweetheart were among the 298 victims of the jetliner that was blown out of the sky on July 17, intensifying anger at the separatists suspected of

bringing it down with a surface-to-air missile. Nearly a week later, international investigators still don't have unfettered access to the crash site, some remains have yet to be recovered, and armed men roam the region, defying their government.

Continued on Page 2



TRUMP: HOTEL IN CAPITAL TO BE ONE OF WORLD'S BEST

Page 6



JAILED VENEZUELA OPPOSITION HEAD LOPEZ GETS TRIAL

Page 12



King Willem-Alexander, second left, Queen Maxima, third left, and Prime Minister Mark Rutte, third right, observe a minute of silence during a ceremony to mark the return of the first bodies of passengers and crew killed in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 from Ukraine at Eindhoven military air base, in Eindhoven, Netherlands, Wednesday, July 23, 2014.

(AP Photo/Phil Nijhuis)

40 Bodies from MH17 solemnly returned to Dutch soil

Continued from front

Investigators in a lab in southern England began studying the plane's "black boxes" Wednesday in hopes of learning about the Boeing 777's final minutes. The Dutch Safety Board, which has taken control of the investigation, said the cockpit voice recorder suffered damage but showed no sign of manipulation, and its recordings were intact. Specialists will start studying the flight data recorder Thursday. Families of passengers moved to a new stage of grief as the bodies began arriving in the Netherlands, the country that bore the heaviest death toll. The families had spent days agonizing in wait while their loved ones' remains lay in sweltering fields in ea-

stern Ukraine before being gradually shifted by truck, train and plane.

"If I have to wait five months for identification, I can do it," said Silene Fredriksz-Hoogzand, whose son, Bryce, and his girlfriend Daisy Oehlers died in the crash. "Waiting while the bodies were in the field and in the train was a nightmare."

On a day of national mourning, flags flew at half-staff on Dutch government buildings and family homes around this nation of 17 million. Church bells rang out around the country as the Dutch and Australian military transport planes taxied to a standstill. King Willem-Alexander clasped the hand of his wife, Queen Maxima, as the couple grimly watched uniformed pallbearers carry the coffins slowly from the planes to a fleet of waiting hearses.

Almost the only sound was of boots marching across the ground and flags flapping in the wind.

Then as the last hearses drove away, applause briefly broke out. Along the route, there was more applause from people gathered along the roadsides. Some tossed flower petals at the motorcade.

From the airport, they drove under military police escort to the central city of Hilversum where forensic experts waited at a military barracks to carry out the painstaking task of identifying the remains. Prime Minister Mark Rutte says many bodies could be identified quickly, but some families may have to wait weeks. Two more planeloads of victims will be flown Thursday to Eindhoven to a similar ceremony, the Dutch government said.

The rebels, undeterred, fought to hold onto territory and said they attacked two Ukrainian air force jets in the same area where the passenger plane fell.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry said the Su-25s were shot about 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of the wreckage from the Malaysian jet. The separatist group Donetsk People's Republic said on its website that one of the pilots was killed and another was being sought by rebel fighters.

The attack revived questions about the rebels' weapons capabilities — and how much support and training they are getting from Russia. The U.S. accuses Russia of backing the separatists and fueling Ukraine's conflict, which has brought Russia's relations with the West and key trading partners in Eu-

rope to a two-decade low. White House deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said the downing of the fighter jets "speaks to the pattern we've seen over the last several weeks, which is Russian-backed separatists armed with Russian anti-aircraft posing risk to aircraft in Ukraine."

Rhodes added: "The only aircraft they're not taking responsibility for is MH-17," referring to the Malaysian jetliner.

He said the U.S. believes it has a "pretty clear case" that responsibility for downing the Malaysian plane lies with the Russian-backed separatists. He acknowledged that the U.S. does not know who "pulled the trigger" and said that would be the hardest thing to determine.

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

While the insurgents deny having missiles capable of hitting a jetliner at cruising altitude, rebel leader Alexander Borodai has said his fighters do have Strela-10M missile systems, which are capable of hitting targets up to an altitude of 3,500 meters (11,500 feet). They have shoulder-fired missiles with a smaller range. The rebels also say they shot down an Antonov-26 early last week with a shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missile. The Kiev government is hinting that the Antonov was flying too high for the rebels to hit it, suggesting Russian involvement. Rebel leader Pavel Gubarev wrote on his Facebook page that 30 rebels were injured and his

men retreated from the villages of Chervona Zorya and Kozhevnyia, on the Russian border about 45 kilometers (30 miles) from the sunflower fields where the Malaysia Airlines plane fell. The battles are complicating the investigation into the passenger jet crash. Ukraine and Western nations are pressing the rebels who control the crash site to allow an unfettered investigation, something Russian President Vladimir Putin said he would use his influence to achieve. Though confident that a missile brought down the passenger jet, U.S. officials say Russia's role remains unclear. Russia denies involvement. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf laid direct responsibility on Putin. "These Russian separatists,

who we strongly believe fired this missile, would not be there operating without the support of President Putin and the Russian government, would not have been trained without the support of President Putin and the Russian government, would not be armed without the support of President Putin and the Russian government," she said. "They would not be there doing what they're doing, period, so they could fire an SA-11, without the support of President Putin and the Russian government." The Dutch Safety Board, which is leading an international team of 24 investigators, said unhindered access to the crash site was critical. Spokesman Tjibbe Joustra told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that

about 25 investigators are in Kiev analyzing photos, satellite images and radar information, but have not yet gained access to the crash site. Body parts were still seen at the crash site Wednesday, said Michael Bociurkiw, spokesman for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. He also described "significant puncture marks to the fuselage, almost a piercing mark." Independent military analysts said the size, spread, shape and number of shrapnel impacts visible in an AP photograph of a piece of the wreckage all point to a missile system like the SA-11 Buk. U.S. analysts have also concluded that an SA-11 was the likely weapon. Konrad Muzyka, an analyst at IHS Jane's, said the high number of shrapnel holes in

the debris meant that only a fragmentary warhead like the SA-11 could have been used. The fact the shrapnel holes are folded inwards confirmed that the explosion came from outside the plane, he added. Justin Bronk, military sciences research analyst at the Royal United Services Institute, said "the size of shrapnel holes is fairly broad, in keeping with what you would expect from a large missile like the SA-11." Residents in the rebel-held city of Donetsk swept up broken glass and tried to repair apartments damaged from shelling in recent days. "The solution I see is to stop shooting. Then Europe and Russia should step in to help start talks," said resident Alexander Litvinenko. "Nothing will be resolved by force." □



People release white balloons after attending a silent march of remembrance in Amsterdam, Wednesday, July 23, 2014. Wednesday was an official day of mourning in the Netherlands. Flags on all Dutch government buildings and diplomatic missions around the world were ordered to fly at half mast.

(AP Photo/Phil Nijhuis)

Arizona inmate dies 2 hours after execution began

PHOENIX (AP) — A condemned inmate gasped and snorted for more than an hour and a half during his execution Wednesday before he died in an episode sure to add to the scrutiny surrounding the death penalty in the U.S. Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne's office said Joseph Rudolph Wood was pronounced dead at 3:49 p.m., one hour and 57 minutes after the execution started.

Wood's lawyers had filed an emergency appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court while the execution was underway, demanding that it be stopped. The appeal said Wood was "gasping and snorting for more than an hour."

Gov. Jan Brewer said later that she's ordering a full review of the state's execution process, saying she's concerned by how long it took for the administered drug protocol to kill Wood.

An Associated Press reporter who witnessed the execution saw Wood start gasping shortly after a sedative and a pain killer

An administrator checked on Wood a half dozen times. His breathing slowed as a deacon said a prayer while holding a rosary. The



Arizona Republic justice reporter Michael Kiefer describes what he saw as a witness to the execution of Joseph Rudolph Wood, which took more than an hour and a half at the state prison on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in Florence, Ariz. Wood was convicted in the 1989 shooting deaths of Debbie Dietz, 29, and Gene Dietz, 55, at an auto repair shop in Tucson.

(AP Photo)

were injected into his veins. He gasped more than 600 times over the next hour and 40 minutes.

55-year-old finally stopped breathing and was pronounced dead 12 minutes later.

Defense lawyer Dale Baich called it a botched execution that should have taken 10 minutes.

"Arizona appears to have joined several other states who have been responsible for an entirely preventable horror — a bungled execution," Baich said. "The public should hold its officials responsible and demand to make this process more transparent."

Family members of Wood's victims said they had no problems with the way the execution was carried out. "This man conducted a horrific murder and you guys are going, let's worry about the drugs," said Richard Brown, the brother-in-law of Debbie Dietz, who was 29 when she was killed in 1989. "Why didn't they give him a bullet, why didn't we give him Drano?"

Wood looked at the family members as he delivered his final words, saying he was thankful for Jesus Christ

as his savior. At one point, he smiled at them, which angered the family.

"I take comfort knowing today my pain stops, and I said a prayer that on this or any other day you may find peace in all of your hearts and may God forgive you all," Wood said.

The case has highlighted scrutiny surrounding lethal injections after two controversial ones. An Ohio inmate executed in January snorted and gasped during the 26 minutes it took him to die. In Oklahoma, an inmate died of a heart attack in April, minutes after prison officials halted his execution because the drugs weren't being administered properly.

Arizona uses the same drugs — the sedative midazolam and painkiller hydromorphone — that were used in the Ohio execution. A different drug combination was used in the Oklahoma case. □

BONUS



THURSDAY!

Bonus 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!
\$6 for 4-Card BINGO • 8 Games to Play

\$1,000 in Cash Prizes!

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing
when you purchase your card prior to 12 noon!

The Shops At Alhambra Casino

Offering a wide variety of
Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services,
Souvenirs and more.

Baskin Robbins • Dunkin Donuts
Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Juan Valdez Café • Subway • R-Glass
Hungry Piranha • Intermezzo • The Salon
Hollywood Smokehouse (opening soon)
Aruba Aloe • Bijoux Turner Boutique
Daher & Co • Diamonds International
The Lazy Lizard • The Market

Where Aruba goes to play!

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • casinoalhambra.com

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.



EARLY BIRD Daily from 4 till 6:30 pm
Appetizers, your choice between:
Mix Salad / Caesar Salad / French Onion soup
Entrees, your choice between:
Catch of the day / Filet Mignon
Chicken Breast / Fettucini Alfredo
Dessert: Dame Blanche
\$22.75
TUESDAY ALL NIGHT LONG

Fishes & More
"The Restaurant"
Open from 4pm till 10:45 pm - 7 days a week!
Arawak Garden, Palm Beach Tel: +297- 586 3659
www.fishesandmore.com
Easy Parking - Night time shopping

Fishes & More
BAR SEAFOOD
ARUBA WINE & DINING

House Republicans: Send troops, speed removals

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans want to slash President Barack Obama's emergency spending request for the U.S.-Mexico border, speed young migrants back home to Central America and send in the National Guard.

Unaccompanied children and teens have been showing up by the tens of thousands, putting the Republican-led House of Representatives on a collision course with the Democratic-run Senate and increasing the likelihood that congressional efforts to address the crisis will end in stalemate. The immigration issue is increasingly sensitive as many in Congress face elections in November to keep their seats.

"Without trying to fix the problem, I don't know how we actually are in a position to give the president any more money," said House Speaker John Boehner, shortly after lawmakers reviewed steps to respond to the influx of children across the Rio Grande river that borders the U.S. and Mexico.

More than 57,000 minors have arrived since October, mostly from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are pleading for action, saying overstressed border and immigration agencies will run out of money in the next two months.

It was not clear if the House would be able to approve the proposal rolled out Wednesday by a working group Boehner established. Conservative lawmakers voiced objections. Several Republican lawmakers said the House plan would cost about

\$1.5 billion, compared to Obama's original \$3.7 billion request for more immigration judges, detention facilities and other resources to deal with unaccompanied kids.

A plan by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski would cost \$2.7 billion.

But the biggest conflict between the House and Senate is not over costs, but policy.

Mikulski, a Democrat, said she was omitting from her legislation any changes to a 2008 trafficking victims law that Republicans say has contributed to the crisis by allowing Central American youths to stay in the United States indefinitely while awaiting court dates. The 2008 law guarantees them judicial hearings, which in practice allows them to stay in this country for years — before any deportation can be carried out — because of major backlogs in the immigration court system.

Republicans want the law changed so that unaccompanied Central American children can be treat-

ed like those from Mexico, who can be sent back by Border Patrol agents unless they can demonstrate a fear of return that neces-

sitates further screening. Republicans say that's the only way to send a message to parents in the Cen-

tral American nations that there's no point in sending their children on the arduous journey north.

Republicans are demanding changes but have sent mixed signals, under pressure from immigration advocates who say they



Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, joined at right by incoming Majority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and Rep. Lynn Jenkins, R-Kan., talks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, July 23, 2014, following a Republican strategy session. House Republicans want to slash President Barack Obama's emergency spending request for the border, speed young migrants back home to Central America, and send in the National Guard.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

ing changes in the 2008 law as the price for approving any money for the crisis.

White House officials have

would amount to sending kids fleeing vicious gang violence back home to their deaths. □

Republican asks if flight ban is boycott of Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — A potential Republican presidential contender in 2016 on Wednesday questioned whether President Barack Obama used a federal agency to impose an economic boycott on Israel after the Federal Aviation Administration banned U.S. airline flights to Tel Aviv because of safety concerns amid fighting between Israel and Hamas.

The State Department rejected the lawmaker's comments as "ridiculous and offensive."

"The facts suggest that President Obama has just used a federal regulatory agency to launch an economic boycott on Israel, in order to try to force our ally to comply with his foreign-policy demands," Sen. Ted Cruz, a tea party conservative favorite, said in a statement in which he posed five questions about the agency's actions, including whether it was politically motivated.

Cruz said later Wednesday he would block Senate confirmation on all State

Department nominees until his questions were answered.

The FAA said its prohibition was in response to a rocket strike that landed about a mile (1.6 km) from Ben Gurion airport as hostilities between Israel and Hamas militants rages on, with more than hundreds of Palestinians and dozens of Israelis killed in intense fighting.

The FAA's actions also come after a Malaysian jetliner was shot down over Ukraine where pro-Russia

separatists have been battling government forces. Rebels shot down two Ukrainian fighter jets on Wednesday.

Cruz said tourism is an \$11 billion industry for Israel and the flight ban may be a crippling blow. Long before the flight prohibition, the fighting could have affected tourism in Israel.

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf called the Texas senator's comments "ridiculous and offensive." □

JOLLY PIRATES

SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING

DAILY 9am - 1pm \$60 pp

Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ,
Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

AFTERNOON CRUISE

DAILY 2pm - 5pm \$45 pp

Our shorter snorkel cruise, with
Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

DAILY SUNSET SAIL

DAILY 5:30pm - 7:30pm \$32 pp

Enjoy spectacular sunset. Open
Bar & Ropeswing included

\$10 off

Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid for direct telephone reservations ONLY - Present coupon at boarding

586 8107/592 7858

Save \$10 per couple/per coupon for morning cruise Save \$5 per couple/per coupon for afternoon cruise

Trump: Hotel in capital to be among world's best

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump has big plans for the Old Post Office building, a historic structure in downtown Washington that he's pledging to transform into the city's most luxurious hotel. As for the White House, four blocks away? He's not saying. The real estate mogul and reality TV star was all business in his visit to the nation's capital Wednesday for a ceremonial ground-breaking outside the 115-year-old building — shaking hands, posing for pictures with gold-plated shovels and praising Democratic political leaders for their cooperation. The Old Post Office is on Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol. Its 315-foot (96-meter) clock tower is the third-tallest structure in the District of Columbia, trailing only the Washington Monument and a Roman Catholic basilica, and it offers rare panoramic views of downtown. Built to house the U.S. Post Office Department headquarters, the Romanesque Revival building has been underutilized in recent years, housing small vendors that catered mostly to tourists. The Trump Organization won a \$200 million contract with the federal government to turn it

into a luxury hotel with 270 guest rooms and suites, restaurants, retail and a 13,000-square-foot (1,208-sq. meter) ballroom. Trump hopes the renovation will

be finished in mid-2016, before the next presidential election.

"It's really the best location in D.C. by far. I mean, everybody acknowledges

that," Trump said in an interview after the ceremony. "We're going to do a building the likes of which D.C. has never seen. I think it will be one of the fine ho-

tels anywhere in the world, and maybe the finest."

Trump, a Republican, has openly pondered a presidential bid on multiple occasions. Asked whether building a hotel so close to the White House would rekindle his political ambitions, Trump said only that he wanted to share his vision of success with the nation's capital.

"It will show how to get things done because we know how to build, we know how to create beautiful things, important things, and we know how to create jobs," he said. "That's what the country has to be doing."

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, a Democrat who represents the District in Congress, has led the push to renovate the building and said the government has found ideal partners in Trump and his daughter Ivanka, the lead developer on the project. □



From left, Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., Washington Mayor Vincent Gray, Donald Trump, and Ivanka Trump, arrive for a ground breaking ceremony for the Trump International Hotel on the site of the Old Post Office, in Washington, Wednesday, July 23, 2014. (AP Photo)

Official: Thieves got into 1K StubHub accounts

NEW YORK (AP) — Some of the hottest tickets in town — to Broadway hits, Jay-Z and Justin Timberlake concerts — went to an international ring of cyber thieves who took over more than 1,000 StubHub users' accounts to fraudulently buy tickets and resell them, prosecutors in

the U.S. said Wednesday. Ten people around the world have been indicted or arrested in connection with the case, which involved more than 3,500 tickets and at least \$1.6 million in unauthorized purchases of sought-after seats, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said.

The scheme spooled from Russia to London to Toronto to the New York area and to Barcelona, Spain, where accused Russian ringleader Vadim Polyakov was arrested while vacationing earlier this month.

Polyakov, 30, was awaiting extradition, and it wasn't

immediately clear whether he had a lawyer. Three other men indicted in the case hadn't yet been arrested; two are in Russia. Meanwhile, authorities have arrested three suspected money-launderers in London and one in Toronto on local charges there.

The case comes amid growing concern about data thieves targeting consumer giants. StubHub said it was alerted to "a small number of accounts that had been illegally taken over by fraudsters" last year.

While prosecutors said they weren't certain how the alleged thieves got access, San Francisco-based Stub-

Hub said they got account holders' login and password information from key-loggers or other malware on the customers' computers or from data breaches at other businesses. StubHub, owned by eBay Inc., said there had been "no intrusions into StubHub technical or financial systems." In the last few years, such major companies as Target, LinkedIn, eBay and Neiman Marcus have been hacked. Since many customers use the same email and password on multiple websites, thieves can use a combination from one site that works in many others, data security experts say. □

FOR SALE

LARGE BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IN
TANKI LEENDERT 92-B
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

TEL: 560-8929

THE Sopranos PIANO BAR

LIVE PIANO ENTERTAINMENT at 8pm

BADA BING!

Open daily at 5pm

DAILY HAPPY HOURS

5 to 8pm + 1 to 2am

On ALL drinks!

Tuesdays COCKTAIL WORKSHOP

between 5 and 8pm

mix, shake & drink your own made cocktails

\$25

Wednesdays Champagne Night

Champagne by the glass \$4

Ladies Only!!

Saturdays at 8pm

Acoustic Night

Sing-A-Long Piano Bar

f

Located at Arawak Garden, Palm Beach - tel: (+297) 586 8622 - www.sopranospianobar.com

SEC considering action with S&P over six ratings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Standard & Poor's said Wednesday that regulators have told the rating agency they are considering taking civil enforcement action against it over ratings it gave to six deals in 2011 involving securities tied to commercial mortgages. S&P's parent McGraw Hill Financial Inc. disclosed in a regulatory filing that it has received a so-called "Wells Notice" from staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The notice indicates the staff will recommend to the five-member commission that it pursue action against S&P for alleged violations of securities laws.

Under SEC procedure, S&P will be able to make its case to the agency on the issues raised by the notice. S&P has been cooperating with the SEC in the matter and will continue to do so, New York-based McGraw Hill said. SEC spokeswoman Gina Talamona declined to comment. The three big agencies — S&P, Moody's and Fitch — have been blamed for helping fuel the 2008 financial crisis by giving high ratings to risky mortgage securities. Those investments later soured when the housing market went bust. High ratings from the agencies made it possible for banks to sell trillions in risky investments. Some investors, including pension funds, can only buy securities that carry high credit ratings.

In a separate case, the Justice Department filed civil charges against S&P in February 2013, accusing it of failing to warn investors that the housing market was collapsing in 2006 because it would be bad for business. □

US Financial Front:

IMF sees US growth at weakest since recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. economic growth this year will likely be at the weakest pace since the Great Recession ended, the International Monetary Fund said, mostly because of a sharp, weather-related contrac-

tion in the first quarter. But it is in line with most other private economists.

The IMF says growth will rebound in the April-June quarter to a healthy 3 percent to 3.5 percent and

sion will resume their job searches. Not all will immediately get hired, however. And it also projects that millions of those who are working part-time but want full-time jobs will keep searching. That would give

The U.S. economy shrank 2.9 percent in the first three months of the year, its worst showing in five years. Like most economists, the IMF attributed the slowdown partly to harsh winter weather, which closed factories and kept shoppers away from car dealerships and stores. It also cited other temporary factors, including a drop in exports and a slowdown in goods restocking.

But hiring has remained strong since the beginning of the year, despite the grim first quarter. That should boost consumer spending, the IMF said. Businesses will also likely step up their spending on plant and equipment, which has been weak so far this year. The economy should benefit as government spending cuts and tax increases have slowed compared with 2013, the IMF said. Political fights over the budget have also ended, at least for this year, Chalk noted. That's allowed the IMF to focus on longer-term issues facing the U.S. economy.

One of them is poverty. The IMF's report said "recent growth has not been particularly inclusive" and noted that roughly 50 million Americans are poor, despite five years of growth and a steady drop in unemployment. The U.S. should boost its minimum wage and expand tax credits for the working poor, the report recommended.

In addition, growth may sink back to 2 percent in the long run, the IMF warned, as the population ages. The U.S. should encourage more Americans to work by providing more childcare assistance, □



In this March 2014 photo, Anthony Avery pushes grocery carts during a snow storm in Roseville, Mich. U.S. economic growth this year will likely be at the weakest pace since the Great Recession ended, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday, July 23, 2014, mostly because of a sharp, weather-related contraction in the first quarter.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

tion in the first quarter. But the global lending organization said Wednesday that it still expects growth resumed in the April-June quarter and will remain healthy in the second half of this year and next.

In its annual report on the U.S. economy, the IMF projects growth will be just 1.7 percent this year, down from a 2 percent estimate in June. That's below last year's 1.9 percent pace and would be the slowest annual rate since the recession ended in June 2009.

The IMF's outlook is more pessimistic than that of the Federal Reserve, which ex-

pects growth of at least 2.1 percent. But it is in line with most other private economists. The IMF projects the economy will expand 3 percent in 2015, which would be the best showing since 2005.

"Behind that pessimistic number, we do see a relatively optimistic view of the economy going forward," said Nigel Chalk, deputy director of the IMF's Western Hemisphere department.

At the same time, the IMF expects unemployment to remain elevated for a longer period than the Fed does. That's partly because the IMF calculates that up to a third of those who have stopped looking for work since the reces-

sion will resume their job searches. Not all will immediately get hired, however.

The IMF projects unemployment won't fall to 5.5 percent until 2018, the IMF report said. That's two years later than the Fed projects. Unemployment at 5.5 percent is considered "full employment," because rates below that level could spark higher inflation.

A slower path to full employment would allow the Fed to postpone raising interest rates for longer than it currently plans, the report said. Most economists forecast the Fed will begin raising the short-term rate it controls by the middle of next year.

American Living: US economy, though sluggish, may now be sturdier

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Out of a seemingly hollow recovery from the Great Recession, a more durable if still slow-growing U.S. economy has emerged.

That conclusion, one held by a growing number of economists, might surprise many people. After all, in the five years since the recession officially ended, Americans' pay has basically stagnated. Millions remain unemployed or have abandoned their job searches. Economic growth is merely plodding along.

Yet as the economy has slowly healed, analysts say it has replaced some critical weaknesses with new-found strengths. Among the trends:

— Fewer people are piling up credit card debt or taking on risky mortgages. This should make growth more sustainable and avoid a cycle of extreme booms and busts.

— Banks are more profitable and holding additional cash to help protect against a repeat of the 2008 market meltdown.

— More workers hold advanced degrees. Education typically leads to higher wages and greater job security, reducing the likelihood of unemployment.

— Inflation is under control. Runaway price increases would be destructive. Low inflation can lay a foundation for growth.

— Millions who have reached retirement age are staying on the job. This lessens the economic drag from retiring baby boomers and helps sustain consumer spending.

Over the long run, such trends could help produce a sturdier economy, one less prone to the kind of runaway growth that often ends in a steep and sudden slump.

The downside? At least in the short term, these same trends have prevented the economy from accelerating. When consumers borrow and spend less freely, for example, they restrain

growth.

And when people seek to work longer or become more educated, often there aren't enough jobs for all of them, at least not right away. People with advanced degrees can often

and reduced it by \$300 a month until it disappeared. "Peace of mind became more important to me than stuff," Quigley said.

Two primary factors explain the decline in card debt: Lending standards

also spending less. That phenomenon has slowed growth because consumers fuel most of the U.S. economy.

Consumer spending has risen just 10.8 percent during the five-year recovery



Mark Ahlemann, center, passes out papers to participants during a breakfast networking session hosted by Gray Hair Management at a restaurant in Elk Grove Village, Ill. By continuing to draw a paycheck, older workers pay taxes and that ought to reduce the budgetary pressures on younger generations, Gary Burtless, a senior economics fellow at the Brookings Institution, concluded in a 2013 paper. But in a sluggish recovery where job gains have not kept pace with population growth, the persistence of older workers has actually hurt younger generations.

(AP Photo/Matt Marton)

find lower-paying jobs that don't require much education. But when they do, they tend to push some people with only a high school education into unemployment.

One of the most striking trends in the recovery has been an aversion to personal debt. A typical U.S. household owes \$7,122 in credit card debt, \$1,618 less than at the start of the recession, according to analysis of New York Federal Reserve data by the firm Nerd Wallet. (After factoring in inflation, the balance is \$2,900 lower.)

Kevin Quigley, a massage therapist, found that by the time the recession struck, his card balance had ballooned to as much as \$35,000. The 33-year old from University City, Missouri ascribed that to "thinking that I needed a lot of things."

Beginning in 2010, he consolidated his card debt

were tightened, and consumers "just kind of froze in place," said Jelena Ewart, general manager of credit cards and banking at Nerd Wallet.

The American Bankers Association says card debt as a share of people's income has reached its lowest level in more than a decade. People increasingly pay off balances each month. And just 2.44 percent of card accounts are delinquent, compared with the 15-year average of 3.82 percent.

Researchers at the Cleveland Fed found that after adjusting for inflation, debt from mortgage and auto loans remains below pre-recession levels. Applications for credit by "deep subprime" borrowers — those most at risk of defaulting — have dropped 36 percent from pre-recession highs.

Because people are taking on less debt, they're

— the smallest increase among expansions in the last 55 years, said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at Northern Trust.

But after the frugality of the past half-decade, money that once went to repaying credit cards can now be spent in ways that boost growth.

"There are some families who can contemplate vacations for the first time in a while, who can contemplate replacing their jalopies," Tannenbaum said.

Declining debt loads have coincided with stronger cash buffers that banks have built up to protect against possible losses. More than 30 percent of banks were unprofitable in 2009, a share that sank to 7.28 percent through the first three months of 2014, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Continued on Page 27

Women business owners see gender gap, report says

JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Women who own small business are still far behind their male counterparts when it comes to getting loans and government contracts, a congressional report said Wednesday.

The report by Democratic staffers of the Senate Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee found that while businesses owned by women account for 30 percent of small companies, they receive only 4.4 percent of the total dollars in conventional small-business loans. That amounts to \$1 for every \$23 loaned.

In terms of numbers of loans, businesses owned by women receive only 16 percent of all conventional small-business loans, and 17 percent of loans backed by the Small Business Administration. Their loan applications are more likely to be rejected than those from businesses owned by men, and the loans they get are likely to have more stringent terms. Women also receive only 7 percent of venture-capital funding.

"The numbers are jarring, for sure, and we need to own up to the fact that we want to see more women entrepreneurs, and to make sure they're getting access to capital," Committee Chair Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., told The Associated Press.

Women are also falling short in receiving government contracts. Although Congress in 1994 set a government-wide goal of awarding 5 percent of federal contract dollars to small businesses owned by women, it hasn't met that goal. The closest it has come is 4 percent, in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2012, the report said. Failing to meet the goal costs women-owned businesses nearly \$5.7 billion in government contracts each year, it said.

Congress needs to take steps to help women-owned businesses. □



Champagne Brunch Cruise

28th Anniversary

Includes continental breakfast, lunch, open bar, mimosas, 3rd lung & snorkeling equipments. Our fleet are custom build Catamarans, with shaded area, sunbathing nets, spacious deck for dancing, 2 restrooms on board, easy embarking from our Pelican Pier. Our professional crew members provide instructions for new snorkelers.

Stops: Catalina Bay, Antilla Ship Wreck & Malmok Bay

Visit us at Casa del Mar, Playa Linda, Holiday Inn Concierge/lobby desk/ beach huts or at our own Pelican Pier, located between the Holiday Inn & Playa Linda Resort.

For reservations call 587-2302 (Mon-Sun) Or book online at: www.pelican-aruba.com

PRESENT THIS AD AND RECEIVE \$10 DISCOUNT PER COUPLE

Gaza battle rages as US continues push for truce

IBRAHIM BARZAK
TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

— The United States an-

death toll rose to more than 700 Palestinians and 34 Israelis.

Underscoring the challenges facing interna-

lifting an Egyptian-Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip is met.

On the ground, meanwhile, Israeli troops backed

to a Palestinian health official. Hundreds of people fled their homes as the battle unfolded, flooding into the streets with what few belongings they could carry, many with children in tow. They said they were seeking shelter in nearby U.N. schools.

"The airplanes and airstrikes are all around us," said Aziza Msabah, a resident of the city in the southern Gaza Strip. "They are hitting the houses, which are collapsing upon us."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who met for the second time this week with United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon, flew to Israel on an Air Force jet, despite a ban imposed a day earlier by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration on commercial flights into Ben-Gurion Airport because of Hamas rocket fire nearby. The FAA extended the ban Wednesday and many major European carriers also canceled more flights

due to security concerns. "We certainly have made steps forward," Kerry said in Jerusalem, without elaborating. "There's still work to be done."

Israel has insisted it must substantially curb the military capabilities of the Islamic militant group that controls Gaza — a position that appears to have gained support within the U.S. administration — while Hamas has demanded the lifting of a crippling Israeli and Egyptian blockade on the impoverished coastal territory it has ruled since 2007. Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal said in a televised speech that the opening of the border crossings was a red line.

"When it comes to the balance of power in this crisis between us and Israel, they are the executioners, the aggressors, the occupiers, the settlers, and we are the true owners of the land," he said from his home-in-exile in Doha, Qatar. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday, July 23, 2014. Kerry flew into Tel Aviv despite a Federal Aviation Administration ban following a Hamas rocket that hit near the airport the day before, reflecting his determination to achieve a cease-fire agreement between the warring sides.

(AP Photo/Pool)

nounced signs of progress in cease-fire talks Wednesday, but prospects for a quick end to the fighting were dim as Palestinian families fled fierce battles in southern Gaza and the

tional negotiators shuttling around the Middle East in a high-profile bid to end the bloodshed, the leader of Hamas insisted the Islamic militants would not relent until their main demand of

by tanks and aerial drones clashed with Hamas fighters armed with rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles on the outskirts of Khan Younis, killing at least eight militants, according

Carriers suspend more Tel Aviv flights

DAVID RISING
MATTHEW KNIGHT

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Air France and Germany's two largest airlines on Wednesday canceled more flights to Tel Aviv because of safety concerns amid the fighting between Israel and Hamas. Lufthansa and Air Berlin extended their cancellations through Thursday and Air France said it was suspending its flights "until further notice."

The European Aviation Safety Agency late Tuesday said it "strongly recommends" that airlines refrain from operating flights to and from Tel Aviv. It said it would "monitor the situation and advise on any update as the situation develops." EASA acted after the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration prohibited American-based airlines from flying to the airport following a Hamas rocket explosion nearby. The

FAA was expected to issue a new statement later Wednesday.

Lufthansa said its decision applies also to its subsidiaries Germanwings, Austrian Airlines, Swiss and Brussels Airlines. In all, 20 flights from Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich, Zurich, Vienna and Brussels were cancelled for Thursday.

The airline initially had suspended flights for 36 hours through the end of Wednesday. □

"fridays" Bar Jam Tour
on the Karaoke Party Bus
9:00pm to 12:00am
Only \$30 per person
book now: 561-0790
FREE EXCLUSIVE t-shirt on board!

We pick you up & drop you off

Karaoke Party Bus

Iraq: al-Maliki rejects call to step down

**QASSIM ZAHRA
VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki rejected an attempt by Iran to persuade him to step down, senior Iraqi politicians said Wednesday, underlining his determination to defy even his top ally to push for a third term in office and further exacerbating the country's political crisis. Al-Maliki has for weeks

ago, when Tehran used leverage over Shiite parties to ensure their backing for him during grueling negotiations over a government at the time. Al-Maliki's rejection of the Iranian pressure puts Tehran in an unclear position, effectively posing it the choice of relenting to his remaining in the post or of hiking up pressure. The two politicians told The Associated Press that Soleimani tried to persuade

commented on Tehran's role in mediating Baghdad's political crisis. Soleimani has taken a lead role in those efforts since the Sunni insurgency overwhelmed the northern city of Mosul last month and swept down toward Baghdad, plunging the country into its worst crisis since the withdrawal of U.S. troops in 2011. According to Shiite officials, the general has been organizing Iraq's military



Lawmakers from the Iraqi city of Mosul, one of the areas captured by the Islamic State group and other Sunni militants last month, speak to the media in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, July 23, 2014. Iraq's political parties have agreed to assign the position of president to a Kurd, prime minister to a Shiite and speaker of parliament to a Sunni. The next president will task someone with forming a new government, and whoever can assemble a majority coalition will become the next prime minister.

(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

been resisting growing pressure for him to step aside, including from former Shiite political allies and from Iraq's top Shiite spiritual authority. His critics see the Shiite prime minister as too divisive to form a government that can win support from the Sunni minority against the militant-led Sunni insurgency that has seized control of a large swath of the country. But the recent meeting between al-Maliki and Iran's pointman in Iraq, senior general Ghasem Soleimani, was the first sign that Iran also believed he should go. Iran was crucial for al-Maliki in winning a second term four years

ago, when Tehran used leverage over Shiite parties to ensure their backing for him during grueling negotiations over a government at the time. Al-Maliki refused, arguing that his political bloc won the largest number of parliament seats in April elections, giving him the right to form the next government, said the politicians, both senior figures in Shiite factions. One of them attended the meeting and the other said he was briefed about it later. The two said Soleimani was "taken aback" by al-Maliki's refusal, but did not further elaborate. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door meeting. Neither the Iraqi or Iranian government has

and Shiite militias to fight the insurgents while at the same time trying to organize Shiite factions on the formation of the next government. Soleimani is the head of the Quds Force, the external operations branch of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard. The Islamic State group, the extremist force leading the insurgency, has vowed to continue its offensive on to Baghdad, although it appears to have crested for now after overrunning Iraq's predominantly Sunni areas. But the country's government has been unable to launch an effective counter-offensive against the militants. □



Plane crashes while landing in Taiwan, killing 48 people

Rescue workers survey the wreckage of TransAsia Airways Flight GE222 on the Taiwanese island of Penghu Thursday, July 24, 2014. The plane attempting to land in stormy weather crashed on the island late Wednesday, killing more than 40 people and wrecking houses and cars on the ground.

(AP Photo)

**RALPH JENNINGS
Associated Press**

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A plane attempting to land in stormy weather crashed on a small Taiwanese island late Wednesday, killing 48 people and wrecking houses and cars on the ground. The ATR-72 operated by Taiwan's TransAsia Airways was carrying 58 passengers and crew when it crashed on Penghu in the Taiwan Strait between Taiwan and China, authorities said. The plane was arriving from the city of Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan.

Two people aboard the plane were French citizens and the rest Taiwanese, Transport Minister Yeh Kuang-shih told reporters. The government's Central News Agency identified the French passengers Thursday as Jeromine Deramond and Penelope Luternauer. The twin-engine turboprop crashed while making a second landing attempt, Yeh said. The crash of Flight GE222 was Taiwan's first fatal air accident in 12 years and came after Typhoon Matmo passed across the island, causing heavy rains that continued into Wednesday night. About 200 airline flights had been canceled earlier in the day due to rain and strong winds. The official death toll was

48, according to Wen Chia-hung, spokesman for the Penghu disaster response center. He said the 10 other people were injured. Authorities were looking for one person who might have been in a house that was struck by wreckage, Wen said. President Ma Ying-jeou called it "a very sad day in the history of Taiwanese aviation," according to a spokesman for his office, Ma Wei-kuo, the Central News Agency reported. The agency said the plane's captain had 22 years of flying experience and the co-pilot had 2-1/2 years. The airline was offering the family of each victim about \$6,600 and paying another \$27,000 for funeral expenses, the agency reported. The plane came down in the village of Xixi outside the airport. Television stations showed rescue workers pulling bodies from the wreckage. Photos in local media showed firefighters using flashlights to look through the wreckage and buildings damaged by debris. Penghu, a scenic chain of 64 islets, is a popular tourist site about 150 kilometers (90 miles) southwest of the Taiwanese capital, Taipei. Residents said they heard thunder and then what sounded like an explosion, the news agency said. □

Venezuelan conspiracy theories a threat to critics

HANNAH DREIER

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Roderick Navarro was in class when he got the news that a high-ranking minister had accused him of plotting to assassinate Venezuela's president. His first thought was, "Not again."

The 26-year-old student leader had already been accused by the ruling socialist party for collaborating with the U.S. to overthrow Venezuela's then-leader Hugo Chavez in 2010. But as messages from friends lit up his phone, Navarro began to worry that it was more serious this time. The denunciation came on live TV, with orders to appear before the national intelligence service.

Announcements of foiled coups and plots against the government have long been a part of the Chavista discourse. A study by the Caracas-based newspaper Ultimas Noticias counted 63 alleged assassination plots between when Chavez took office in 1999 and his death in 2013. Since then, such claims have come even more frequently. President Nicolas Maduro's government has denounced more than a dozen purported plots since coming to power 15 months ago, according to a tally by The Associated Press.

While the Chavez administration tended to point fingers at the CIA or shadowy outside groups, Maduro's accusations often target local opposition figures, who say they face imprisonment, constant surveillance and the threat of vilification or violence from pro-government groups.

The most serious recent allegations came in late May, as authorities tried to mop up dissent that led to a three-month wave of deadly anti-government protests. Top officials accused a handful of opposition leaders of working with the U.S. ambassador in neighboring Colombia to "annihilate" Maduro.

During a news conference that all broadcasters were

required to carry live, officials showed heavily annotated slides of emails that they said the plotters had sent each other.

It was a bizarre tableau even by Venezuelan standards, prompting a popular television comic to create a 10-minute spoof. His show was shut down days later in what fans believe was a reprisal, a reminder that the accusations may not be believed by government critics, but can't be laughed off either. Opponents say the drumbeat of alleged conspiracies helps the administration shift attention away from domestic problems such as soaring prices and rising crime.

The charges against local critics are "one way that the Maduro administration has added extra paranoia to its strategy," said Gregory Weeks, a political science professor specializing in Latin America at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. "Chavez went after local opposition, too, but he didn't feel the need

to use conspiracy theories to do so."

To outsiders, the allegations can seem far-fetched. Chavistas have accused conspirators of using newspaper crossword puzzles

that wild to many government supporters, who are well-versed in the history of American plotting against leftist governments from Chile to Cuba during the Cold War and are a quick

radio are unlikely to hear much questioning of conspiracy theories.

Fruit vendor Herman Acosta believes the allegations and says the government should do more to protect



A man walks in front of a mural with painted images of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, left, independence hero Simon Bolivar and late President Hugo Chavez, in Caracas, Venezuela. (AP Photo/Alejandro Cegarra)

to communicate with enemies of the state, of developing tools to give leftist leaders cancer, and of plotting to "ruin Christmas" with a coup. They rarely provide much evidence. But the charges don't seem

to recall Washington's endorsement of a coup that toppled Chavez for two days in 2002.

With independent Venezuelan media sources dwindling, people getting their news from television and

itself from those who conspire against it.

"I believe the government, because there have been coups all over Latin America and the U.S. has always been the prime actor," he said. □

Meat supplier in China scandal has global reach

BEIJING/NEW YORK (AP) —

It isn't a household name, but the company at the center of a food scandal

locations.

OSI Group, a privately held company based in Aurora, Illinois, was thrust into



A worker stands near a shut down machine at the workshop Hushi Food Co. in Shanghai, China, a meat supplier for McDonald's and KFC owned by OSI Group, a privately-held company that's based in Aurora, Ill. OSI was thrust into the spotlight this weekend when a Chinese TV station reported the Hushi plant repackaged old beef and chicken and slapped new expiration dates on them.

(AP Photo/Xinhua, Pei Xin)

in China helps make some of the world's most popular foods, including the Big Macs and Quarter Pounders served at McDonald's

the spotlight this weekend when a Chinese TV station reported that one of its Shanghai plants repackaged old beef and chick-

en and slapped new expiration dates on them. The scare has ensnared chains including McDonald's, KFC, Burger King and Starbucks, all of which got ingredients from a unit of OSI in the region called Hushi Food Co. The controversy deepened Wednesday when five workers for Hushi, were detained by police.

An official with China's food safety regulator told the Xinhua News Agency that some of the illegal conduct it uncovered was an arrangement "organized" by Hushi.

None of OSI's more than 50 other plants around the world have been implicated and CEO Sheldon Lavin noted in a statement that authorities in China have inspected and found no issues at its other facilities. He called what happened at the Shanghai location "completely unacceptable."

The scandal is a blemish for OSI, which began as a fam-

ily-run meat market in 1909 and prides itself on its high standards. The company notes on its website that it has a "strong heritage of quality and service" and that food safety and quality assurance are "guiding principles."

Its business took off after Ray Kroc tapped it in the 1950s to be a beef supplier for McDonald's Corp.

OSI doesn't have to report financial information, but according to PrivCo, which researches privately held companies, it had \$6.13 billion in sales last year. OSI doesn't publicly disclose all of its clients either, but it supplies numerous big-name chains including Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc., for which it cooks some beans and carnitas and barbacoa meats.

In the U.S., OSI has said it has systems in place to ensure products can be located and taken out of the system within two hours if any issues arise. □

Venezuela: Jailed opposition leader goes on trial

JORGE RUEDA
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A top leader of the anti-government protests that wracked Venezuela for months this spring is getting his day in court. Opposition firebrand Leopoldo Lopez went on trial Wednesday charged with inciting violence at early demonstrations. Lopez was arrested in February after he spoke at a rally that later turned vio-

lent. The anti-government demonstration marked the start of three months of deadly street protests. Lopez has remained in a jail cell while the protest movement has mostly died down and opposition leaders have begun to fight among themselves. But he has become a cause celebre for critics of Venezuela's socialist government. Riot police and National Guard troops were out Wednesday blocking ac-

cess to the court where Lopez's trial was scheduled. If convicted, the Harvard University-educated Lopez could face years in prison. In recent months, several opposition leaders have been targeted in Venezuela's courts, including former lawmaker Maria Corina Machado, who was also involved in the February protests and has been barred from leaving the country. □



Lilian Tintori, wife of opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez greets supporters outside the Justice Palace as the trial against Lopez for inciting violence at anti-government protests began, in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, July 23, 2014. Lopez is the head of the Popular Will party. Before turning himself in to authorities in February, he had been spearheading a movement to force President Nicolas Maduro's resignation.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

Argentina: President says country will not default

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's president said Wednesday that her country will not go into default because it has been paying debts to bondholders on time. The government is in negotiations to resolve a dispute with creditors over \$1.5 billion in unpaid debts that could lead Argentina to its second default in 13 years. But President Cristina Fernandez said a new term for default will have to be created to call "a debtor who paid and someone who blocked it." She alluded to a U.S. judge's order that Argentina can't pay inves-

tors who accepted lower-valued bonds after a 2001 default unless it also pays off bondholders who didn't participate in the bond swaps. "I don't know what the term is because credit rating agencies and others always find a term to hide what's really going on. Argentina paid and someone blocked it and won't let it reach third parties," Fernandez said at the inauguration of a motorcycle factory. The center-left leader also said she won't sign any deal with creditors that she often calls "vultures" if

it puts the future of Argentines at risk. "They won't make me sign just anything threatening me with the world falling apart," she said. Many of the creditors in the dispute are hedge funds that bought Argentine bonds on the cheap following Argentina's record \$100 billion default in 2001. Fernandez and her predecessor, her late husband Nestor Kirchner, refused to negotiate with the plaintiffs who spent more than a decade litigating for payment in full rather than agreeing to provide Argentina with debt relief. □

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Fugitive arrested at Dominican airport

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Interpol agents in the Dominican Republic announced Wednesday that they arrested an Italian fugitive at an airport in the Caribbean country's capital. A statement identified the man as Domenico Loiconi, 56. He allegedly fled Italy in 1992 before he was to start serving a sentence of nine years in prison for smuggling narcotics including heroin. The statement said Loiconi had been in the Dominican Republic since July 15 and was detained Sunday at a Santo Domingo airport as he was about to board a flight to the United States.

Dominican authorities said they believe Loiconi had recently been residing in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He was extradited to Italy on Tuesday.

In April, Dominican police arrested an alleged high-ranking member of an Italian mafia group who had been living in a resort town. Nicola Pignatelli, believed to be a high-ranking member of a mafia group based in Calabria, had fled Italy in 2011 before he was to start serving a 13-year sentence. He also was extradited shortly after his arrest. □

Jamaica arrests 41 alleged scammers

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — More than three dozen Jamaicans have been arrested as suspected lottery scammers, police on the Caribbean island said Wednesday. The Jamaica Constabulary Force said a two-day operation this week by police and soldiers netted 41 suspects in western Jamaica. Raids took place simultaneously in several communities on Monday and Tuesday. The suspects' identities were not immediately released. Cars, laptops and high-end electronics were among items seized. Police also alleged they found "lead sheets," or lists with names, addresses and phone numbers of people in other countries targeted for the scam.

Victims of the cross-border telemarketing fraud are often elderly Americans who get cheated out of their retirement savings.

Jamaica's lottery scam often begins with a phone call that informs a target in another country that they have won an international sweepstakes, but they first need to wire money to cover taxes.

People who fall for the trick and send payments then get harassed for more money by aggressive swindlers who bombard them with calls. □

Puerto Rico wants chikungunya testing

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's health department is paying for laboratory tests that determine whether someone has the chikungunya virus amid an epidemic in the U.S. territory.

The announcement comes amid concerns that cases are being under reported because insurance does not cover the \$250 test. Health Department spokesman Rolando Roman said Wednesday that 241 cases had been confirmed as of July 1. Health experts believe the number is much higher.

Across the Caribbean, the Pan American Health Organization recorded 440,254 suspected and confirmed cases as of July 18.

The Western Hemisphere's first locally transmitted case was confirmed in December in the French Caribbean territory of St. Martin.

The mosquito-borne virus causes fever and severe joint pain, but is rarely fatal. There is no vaccine, and it mainly is treated with pain medication. □



Pencil in Some Friday Fun:

The First FRANK Event at the Sandbar a huge success!



PALM BEACH - Last Friday, the 18th of July formed the kickoff of the first FRANK event at the Sandbar in Aruba. Sandbar, which has officially started operating under Brickell Bay Beach Club & Spa Boutique Hotel since July 1st, has initiated the Friday Afternoon Drink, the so called FRANK at SAND. This happy hour from 5 until 7 PM is to provide local professionals and tourists a classy, upscale and Caribbean Chic venue with very reasonably priced drinks, open air seating with shading, music provided by a DJ and free snacks.

A couple of guests attending the first FRANK were interviewed:

Melissa Kromopawiro, Financial Controller at Romar Trading: This is the first time I came here without

it being for a private party, I find the ambience very relaxing and I appreciate that they have free snacks. DJ Vibes is playing really good music. Before this I wouldn't really go out for happy hours, certainly not in a closed up place, so this I really like. You can sit outside feeling the tropical breeze of Aruba, in an elegant setting. The prices are really good, the snacks are delicious and as I can see they are being kept warm appropriately according to the FDA guidelines. The only thing that I think is not perfect yet is the parking but I heard that Valet Parking would be facilitated for the next FRANK.

Faela Lopez, Sales representative Romar Trading: "Now that the Sandbar falls directly under the Brickell



Bay Hotel with new Sandbar Manager Lev Valera, I find that are a lot of changes for the better, such as changes in the staffing, the service has become much better and the overall atmosphere of Sand bar has become more elegant. The prices are very reasonable, the snacks are delicious and the DJ is fantastic. I never liked closed up places, so I'm really happy that I'm able to sit outside in fresh air having a good time with my colleagues.

This is now the place to be for me."

Angela Tiemens, Radio DJ Fresh Fm: "It's great, especially the prices are really good, the atmosphere is fun and the snacks are fantastic. The music is good, the location is beautiful. Before this I would go to a local bar inside, but this location is very nice and I really like that you can sit outside in the fresh air. But most of all I like the snacks!"

Indroh Kelkboom, radio announcer/producer The Morning Show Cool Fm. "I really liked the meatballs! It's great that if you look around, you see people at the bar that are just like us, young professionals that are looking for a nice place to relax, and that is what is going on here tonight at FRANK."

Alexander Leonard, Sales Aruba Trading: "Atmosphere is great, the prices are good but most of all I love the snacks. Next time I will tell more colleagues to come with me so that they know there is a nice place for them to go to after work. Even though I work in Oranjestad, it's not a problem to go to Palm Beach."

Adele John, Food & Beverage manager at Brickell Bay: "Brickell Bay wanted to organize a happy hour on Friday for the local people to unwind and relax in a nice Caribbean chic atmosphere with affordable prices and free snacks such as chicken wings, meatballs, mini sandwiches and mozzarella sticks. I am very amazed myself, it's so much fun, look at the guests you can see they are having a good time."

The FRANK at Sand is an every Friday happy hour with \$2 beer draft and \$3 mix drinks from 5-7PM at the Sandbar at Brickell Bay Beach Club & Spa Boutique Hotel. For more information check out the Facebook page FRANK AT SAND THIS FRIDAY!, like the Facebook Page Sand Aruba or call Lev Valera, manager Sandbar, for group reservations at 592-8348. □

With 200% rental increase, brand new website, and expanded services; Residential Community Gold Coast Delivers Wow Factor!

MALMOK - Gold Coast, Aruba's newest resort-style residential community in Malmok, is on the move and making a positive mark with enhanced guest services, increased bookings of their rental homes and the recent launch of a brand new website. Guests of Gold Coast now have the option to choose from a wide variety of special requests and services, in addition to housekeeping and laundry services. Prior to their arrival all Gold Coast guests can arrange for services that will definitely deliver a wow factor and provide for an extraordinary stay in Aruba. These new services include pre arrival grocery shopping, the request for an In-house



villas. Lastly, Gold Coast shares its results of the third quarter of 2013. Compared to

the same time last year results show a 200% increase in rental business of their condos, townhouses and villas. In addition the occupancy at the rental homes in this residential community also increased by 200% compared to the third quarter of 2012. Construction activities are still ongoing at Gold Coast and it is to be expected that their magnificent growth will be doubled again next year. Future expansion includes the construction of a Gold Coast Clubhouse.

This multi-purpose Clubhouse will feature 2 tennis courts and large community pool, a convenience store, business center, restaurant, Spa and state of the art Fitness Center. The Gold Coast Clubhouse is to be completed in 2014. □

chef, server, bartender or butler, personal laundry, in-house massage, a personal trainer, Spa treatments and babysitting services. Marketing efforts of the Gold Coast residential community were also enhanced with the recent launch of a brand new website: www.arubarentalsvacation.com. Functionalities of this new website include a chat room where guests can immediately reach out with their questions to a Front Office staff member of Gold Coast. The website also features an easy-to-use booking engine for direct bookings of the Gold Coast condos, townhouses and spacious





Where
Aruba's culture
becomes a total
caribbean experience



The Caribbean Festival:
Aruba's Carnival experience
every week of the year!

Most visitors don't have the opportunity to experience Aruba's cultural highlight of the year—Carnival (or, as we call it here, Carnaval). But now you can discover the colorful spirit of Aruba's Carnival every Thursday evening at the Caribbean Festival. Situated on the island's southern tip in the heart of San Nicolas where Caribbean and Aruban cultures meet, the Caribbean Festival brings Carnival to life with live Calypso and Soca music, a parade of glittery dancers showcasing many of our past Carnival's gorgeous costumes, festive brass bands, stilt walkers, handi-crafts, and traditional homemade cuisine of the Caribbean region.

We encourage you to spend an evening with the locals, and enjoy a taste of our culture at the Caribbean Festival. It's also a great family or group activity!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT EVERY
De Palm Tours
DESK AT
YOUR
HOTEL

EVERY
THURSDAY
6:00pm - 10:00pm

facebook

Package includes:

- Round-trip transportation from your hotel
- Entrance to the festival
- Dinner and beverages
- Entertainment – Carnival show, live music, and more
- A commemorative carnival mask

Price : \$64 per person, \$32 children 12 years and under.
Where : Main-Street San Nicolas
When : Thursdays from 6 pm to 10 pm

Information: visit your guest services desk in your hotel
for more information and tickets.

The Caribbean Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture. Operated by the Caribbean Foundation.



At Sopranos Piano Bar: The Spotlight on a Lovely New Jersey Biker Couple

PALM BEACH - Rob and Michelle have been coming to Aruba forever: they love the island and they spend their holiday preferably here in the company of their teenage son and daughter.

The two have a great hobby: biking! The sense of freedom that biking offers, is priceless.

Rob and Michelle always stay at one of the hi-rise hotels, close to the wide

variety of nice restaurants on the strip. After dinner they can often be found at Sopranos Piano Bar in the Arawak Garden across from the Occidental Resort, having drinks and enjoying themselves, listening to the songs of the piano man. The Sopranos staff would like to say 'thank you' for being this bikers' couple's favorite hang-out on the island. Thanks, Rob and Michelle! □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! *Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"*



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



So Yeon Ryu, of South Korea, celebrates after sinking a birdie putt on the 17th hole during the final round of the Marathon Classic LPGA golf tournament at Highland Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania, Ohio, Sunday, July 20, 2014. Associated Press

World supremacy at stake in International Crown

OWINGS MILLS, Maryland (AP) — The inaugural International Crown is unique for what it isn't.

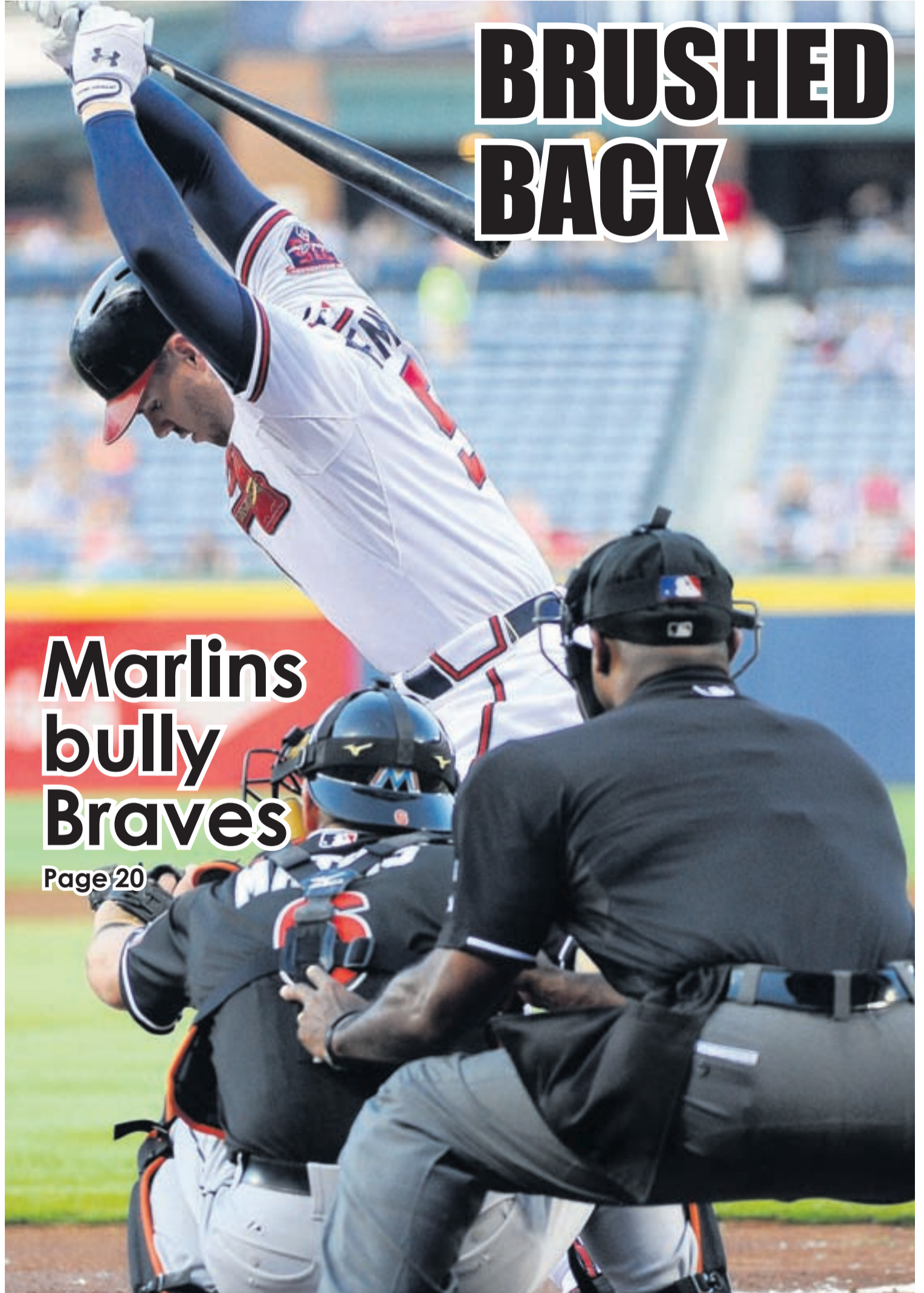
Thirty-two elite players from eight countries will compete for four days at Caves Valley Golf Club to determine which nation has the best female golfers in the world.

It's not about individual play. None of the eight teams has a captain, and unlike the Solheim Cup, this isn't just the United States versus Europe.

"For me, to be able to wear our Australian colors and play under the Australian flag is something that's very special," said Karrie Webb, who's competing in her first professional team match-play event.

The United States is the top-seeded team at the LPGA-sanctioned tournament that begins Thursday.

Continued on Page 19



BRUSHED BACK

Marlins bully Braves

Page 20

Atlanta Braves' Freddie Freeman, top, dodges an inside pitch in front of Miami Marlins catcher Jeff Mathis and umpire Alan Porter during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 22, 2014, in Atlanta. Associated Press

Watson: Porthcawl is tougher than Hoylake

TREVOR PEAKE

Associated Press

PORHCAWL, Wales (AP)

— Tom Watson, one of the all-time masters of links golf with five British Open championships under his belt, has taken to his heart Royal Porthcawl, the venue for the British Senior Open starting on Thursday.

"This is a great test of golf, I fell in love with it immediately," said Watson, a three-time British Seniors winner.

He tees up in the first two rounds with Fred Couples and Colin Montgomerie, winner of the year's first two senior majors, the Senior PGA and the U.S. Senior Open.

"Knowing where you can hit the ball is a key factor in links golf, simply because it runs so far, and this course is in great shape and will prove a true test, especially if the wind blows."

Champion in 2003, 2005 and 2007 at Turnberry, Royal Aberdeen and Muirfield respectively, Watson arrived at Porthcawl fresh



Tom Watson of the US plays a shot off the 4th tee during the second day of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club, Hoylake, England, Friday July 18, 2014.

Associated Press

from shooting a 4-under-par 68 in the final round of the British Open, won by Rory McIlroy at Hoylake on Sunday.

"This is tougher than Hoylake was," Watson said. "It really is a wonderful, wonderful golf course. Actually, I talked to Peter Dawson of the R&A about playing an Open Champi-

onship here and he said the course itself could certainly handle it, but they don't have the infrastructure."

Montgomerie, also seeing Royal Porthcawl for the first time, comes into the event full of confidence, and on course to match Gary Player's trio of senior majors in 1988.

Montgomerie pointed to

his putting as the bedrock of his current form.

"If you look at the stats, I was leading the putting stats on the Champions Tour for the first three months," he said. "My best putting stats when I was winning the Order of Merit over here - I think I was 30th one year. That gives you huge confidence to stand on the next tee

and hit your shot."

Defending champion Mark Wiebe plays the first two rounds alongside Bernhard Langer, who he beat in a five-hole playoff at Royal Birkdale last year, and Miguel Angel Jimenez, who won the Greater Gwinnett title in Duluth, Georgia, on his Champions Tour debut in April.

Unlike Monty, Wiebe is short on confidence.

"I've had an awfully tough year. I've had injuries and have never withdrawn from so many tournaments before," Wiebe said.

Jimenez was upbeat about his chances: "A senior major would be very nice, so maybe we'll start with this one," said the popular Spaniard.

Corey Pavin, with a second and two thirds in previous British Seniors, plays his first two rounds with Wales' favorite golfing son, Ian Woosnam, and England's Roger Chapman, the winner of the Senior PGA and British Seniors two years ago.



Lukas Lacko, of Slovakia, returns a shot to Denis Istomin at the BB&T Atlanta Open on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Fourth-seeded Vasek Popisil of Canada advanced to the Atlanta Open quarterfinals with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Ukrainian qualifier Illya Marchenko on Wednesday.

In other second-round matches, Slovakia's Lukas Lacko beat sixth-seeded Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, and America's Jack Sock downed New Zealand's Michael Venus

6-4, 6-2. Seventh-seeded Lu Yen-hsun of Taiwan beat America's Alex Kuznetsov 6-4, 6-4 in a first-round match. Defending champion John Isner, the No. 1 seed, will open play Thursday against wild-card entry Robby Ginepri. Ginepri of the United States beat Ukraine's Sergiy Stakhovsky on Tuesday.

South Africa's Kevin Anderson, the No. 2 seed who lost to Isner in the final last year,

Vasek Popisil advances to Atlanta Open quarterfinals

will open his campaign Thursday against Dutch qualifier Thiemo de Bakker.

Monaco beats 3rd seed Garcia-Lopez at Swiss Open GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP) — Juan Monaco of Argentina beat third-seeded Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 in the Swiss Open second round on Wednesday.

Monaco took advantage of Garcia-Lopez's service problems in a match which had nine breaks of serve. Monaco, who was a top-10 player in 2012, has won seven of his eight career titles on outdoor clay courts. He plays Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil, a two-time Gstaad champion, in the quarterfinals.

Bellucci won 6-4, 6-4 against fellow left-hander

Federico Delbonis, the fifth-seeded Argentine.

Second-seeded Marcel Granollers of Spain reached the quarterfinals with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Switzerland's Yann Marti. Granollers next faces fellow countryman Pablo Andujar, who beat Blaz Rola of Slovenia 6-3, 6-3.

Completing the first-round matches, wild card Henri Laaksonen of Switzerland beat qualifier Gianni Mina of France, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3).

Robredo, Cilic, Rosol in Umag quarterfinals UMAG, Croatia (AP) — Defending champion Tommy Robredo beat fellow Spaniard Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-4, 6-4 on Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the Croatia Open.

Robredo, seeded second, converted only two out of

11 break points on his way to victory. The Spaniard played a very solid game from the baseline and won 90 percent of his first serves. Third-seeded Marin Cilic of Croatia also advanced, beating Dutchman Igor Sijsling 7-5, 6-3. It was Cilic's fourth victory over Sijsling in as many encounters and the Croatian was dominant from the start.

He took a 5-2 lead in the first set before Sijsling leveled for 5-5. Cilic then broke in the 12th game on his second set point.

Cilic, who won the tournament in 2012 and reached the 2011 final, broke again at 3-2 in the second set before easily finishing off the match.

"It is good that I won in two sets, conditions here are tough with humidity and heat," Cilic said.



Cristie Kerr reacts to her putt on the 14th hole during the final round of the Marathon Classic LPGA golf tournament at Highland Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania, Ohio, Sunday, July 20, 2014. Associated Press

Crown International

Continued from Page 17

"I think we would be bummed if we weren't No. 1," said American Paula Creamer, a 10-time tour winner.

Australia, South Korea, Japan, Sweden, Thailand, Spain and Taiwan also hope to raise the trophy after the final ball drops into the hole on Sunday.

Creamer and teammates Stacy Lewis, Cristie Kerr and Lexi Thompson have all played for the Solheim Cup. Although the format of this event isn't the same, the Americans will draw upon that experience.

"Golf being such an individual sport, we don't get to play as a team very often," Thompson said. "Being part of a team, it's just such an amazing feeling. Hearing 'USA!' chants going up every green, it's the best experience."

For the first three days, the countries will stay within their respective pool. Each country plays two best-ball matches against every other country in its pool.

The U.S. will open against Taiwan and South Korea will face Australia in Pool A on Thursday. In Pool B, Japan faces Sweden and Thailand takes on Spain. The teams shuffle opponents until Sunday, when the top four teams and a wild card meet in a total of 10 singles matches.

The country with the most points over the four days

wins.

"It's kind of a new experience for me because I can't play in the Solheim Cup," Japan's Ai Miyazato said. "This is an amazing feeling, representing my country. Seeing my country flag everywhere on this golf course gives me goose bumps."

Because there are no captains, each team determined its opening pairings by a meeting of the minds. "We're all very indecisive," Webb acknowledged. "I mean, it took us about 20 minutes to decide where we were going to dinner the other night. So no one's really making any assertive calls out there."

The South Korean team ran business in similar fashion.

"It's kind of sharing thoughts," Inbee Park said. "I think it's better because everybody takes a part."

Park and her teammates are feeling the pressure to compete well, not only because South Korea wants to re-establish itself as a dominant force in women's golf, but because it would be a boost back home. "It's a tough time back in my country right now. A lot of sad things happened this year, including the ferry disaster," Park said. "A lot of people are in a really little bit of a depression, so we really need some kind of hope for my people back in my country and I think this week could be a big hope for them." □

CRYSTAL CASINO
WANTS TO CELEBRATE WITH
ALL ITS MEMBERS!

25 Years Anniversary

WE'RE GIVING AWAY
AWG. 100.000
IN TOTAL CASH PRIZES!

Accumulate your points every day during a whole month. Raffle takes place every 25th of each month in 2014 at 10:00pm.

WIN CASH every 25TH of each month in 2014.

Prize 1 - AWG. 5.000

Prize 2 - AWG. 2.500

Prize 3 - AWG. 2.500

AWG. 10.000 IN PRIZES!!!

Receive one coupon for every 25 POINTS accumulated on slot machines. Table games are also eligible to participate as per house rules. Receive one coupon for every 25 points.

**FREE PARKING FOR MEMBER CARD HOLDERS
FROM 7:00PM - 7:00AM (DOUANE PARKING LOT)
(present card at parking lot)**

For more information, please call
583-6000 ext.6318 or ext.6437
Management reserves the right to cancel or change this campaign.

CRYSTAL
Casino



NL Capsules

Turner solid as Marlins rip Braves' Minor, 6-5

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Jacob Turner allowed two runs in his bid for a permanent return to Miami's rotation and the Marlins knocked Mike Minor out of the game early in their win over Atlanta. Donovan Solano had a career-high four hits and reached on a walk as Miami took its second straight win over Atlanta. Christian Yelich had two hits and scored three runs.

Turner (3-6), making his first start since June 11, gave up four hits in five innings. He loaded the bases but allowed only one run in the first inning. The other run he gave up came on Justin Upton's third-inning homer. Steve Cishek pitched around Chris Johnson's leadoff single in the ninth to earn his 23rd save.

Minor (3-6) was rocked in his shortest start of the season, giving up six runs on 10 hits and two walks in three-plus innings. He allowed six runs for the second straight start.

PIRATES 12, DODGERS 7
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gregory Polanco got out of a slump with a solo home run and a tiebreaking two-run single, lifting Pittsburgh over



Miami Marlins starting pitcher Jacob Turner delivers to the Atlanta Braves during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 22, 2014, in Atlanta.

the Los Angeles Dodgers. Neil Walker went 2 for 4 with his 15th homer and three RBIs. Ike Davis had three hits, including his sixth home run.

Vance Worley (3-1) over-

came shaky defense behind him to win for the first time in nearly a month.

Adrian Gonzalez smacked his 15th homer and finished with three RBIs for the Dodgers. Paul Maholm (1-5) took

the loss after replacing ineffective starter Josh Beckett, who struggled in his return from a hip injury.

Pittsburgh reliever Justin Wilson was ejected in the seventh after hitting Justin Turner with a pitch after Jamey Wright plunked Pirates star Andrew McCutchen.

Beckett allowed four runs in 3 2-3 innings, three coming on solo home runs by Walker, Davis and Polanco.

CUBS 6, PADRES 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Anthony Rizzo hit two home runs, and Kyle Hendricks pitched seven innings in his return from the minor leagues, as the Chicago Cubs beat San Diego to snap a five-game losing streak.

Rizzo staked Hendricks to a 2-0 lead in the third inning. Four innings later, rookie Arismendy Alcantara and Rizzo hit back-to-back homers off Blaine Boyer for a 5-0 lead. Rizzo became the first National League player to reach 25 homers this season, his career high. Emilio Bonifacio, Wellington Castillo and Justin Ruggiano had two hits apiece for the Cubs.

Recalled from Triple-A Iowa earlier Tuesday, Hendricks (1-0) made short work of an

anemic Padres lineup that entered the game with a total of 29 home runs and 103 RBIs. In his second start of the season, he allowed five hits and threw only 83 pitches.

Eric Stults (3-12) took his ninth loss in 10 decisions.

RAYS 7, CARDINALS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jake Odorizzi allowed two runs over 5 2-3 innings, and Yunel Escobar highlighted a five-run fifth inning with a two-run double to lead Tampa Bay over St. Louis.

It was the Rays' season-high sixth straight win. They have outscored the opposition 36-11 during the run. Evan Longoria added a solo homer in the ninth for Tampa Bay.

St. Louis ace Adam Wainwright, making his first appearance since starting for the NL in the All-Star game, gave up six runs, four earned, in 4 2-3 innings.

Wainwright (12-5) was trying to become the first 13-game winner in the NL. He walked four and hit a batter in his second-shortest outing of the season.

Matt Carpenter and Matt Holliday hit solo home runs for the Cardinals.



Toronto Blue Jays' Anthony Gose, right, steals third base past Boston Red Sox third baseman Xander Bogaerts, left, during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, July 22, 2014 in Toronto.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — J.A. Happ pitched six shutout innings for his first victory in three starts, Dioner Navarro and Jose Reyes homered, and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Boston

Red Sox 7-3 on Tuesday night.

Reyes and Navarro both connected in the sixth inning as the Blue Jays rebounded from Monday's 14-1 defeat to snap Boston's five-game winning

AL Capsules

Jays snap Red Sox's 5 game win streak

streak. Reyes and Melky Cabrera both had three hits and two RBIs. Cabrera has 14 multi-hit games in his past 30.

David Ortiz hit a solo homer in the eighth, his third homer in two games and the 36th at Rogers Centre, matching Alex Rodriguez for the most by a visiting player. Happ (8-5) allowed seven hits in six innings to win for the first time since June 26. Brett Cecil got the final out for his fourth save in five chances.

Jake Peavy (1-9) lost for the

ninth time in 15 starts and hasn't won since beating Toronto on April 25. He allowed five runs and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings.

INDIANS 8, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Carlos Santana homered among his season high-tying four hits and Danny Salazar won in his first start in more than two months as Cleveland topped Minnesota.

Cleveland won for the fourth time in six games since the All-Star break. Minnesota has lost four of five.

Salazar (2-4) gave up one run and six hits in five innings.

Indians closer Cody Allen struck out pinch-hitter Chris Parmelee with a runner on third in a two-run game in the eighth inning before Cleveland scored four times in the ninth.

Twins rookie starter Yohan Pino (1-3) allowed four runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Minnesota's Brian Dozier had three hits, including his career-high 19th home run in the seventh inning.

Playful Pole wins Tour stage, as Nibali marches on

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

PLA D'ADET, France (AP)

— On the last of four Pyrenees ascents, Rafal Majka winked at a French TV camera and tugged playfully at a motorcycle's antenna.

Even this late in the Tour de France, the Polish rider made winning look easy as he took Stage 17 on Wednesday.

For Vincenzo Nibali, the second ride in the mountains on France's border with Spain was more serious. "The Shark" nibbled yet more seconds away from several of his closest challengers, and the yellow jersey that he's worn for all but two days of this race seemed to fit just a little more tightly ahead of Sunday's race finish in Paris. Nibali was even business-like with his own prime minister, imploring him not to get too ahead of himself in celebration.

"It's true that I received a text message from Matteo Renzi, who invited me to Chigi Palace to celebrate my victory," said the cautious Sicilian of the premier's official residence. "I replied that only after winning — if I do so — I'll be able to say that I'll be present."

Wednesday's 124.5-kilometer (77-mile) trek was the shortest stage in this year's Tour. It covered three hard Category 1 ascents from Saint-Gaudens and a final push up to Pla d'Adet ski station above the town of Saint-Lary-Soulan.

Majka, who also won Stage 14 in the Alps, again showed he's the best climber in this Tour and tightened his grip on the polka dot jersey, which is awarded to the race's King of the Mountains.

Giovanni Visconti got the action going on the last climb, but his solo breakaway with about nine kilometers (5-1/2 miles) left could not hold off Majka. Visconti, who is also Sicilian, was second, 29 seconds back, and Nibali was third, 46 seconds behind.

With a last Pyrenean day ahead Thursday, Majka could ensure that he takes the red-dot jersey home. His closest rival for it when the stage started was Spain's Joaquim Rodriguez, who swatted the air in frustration at Majka when the Pole broke away on the last climb.

Majka said he felt "comfort" in the last five kilometers in part because he'd been saving up energy a day earlier by riding easier. He finished in a bunch 24-1/2 minutes behind Australian teammate Michael Rogers, who won Stage 16. By Wednesday, "I felt really, really good in the last climb," Majka said, after tapping his chest, thrusting his arms skyward and shouting in joy at the victory. "For me, when there are a lot of climbs, it's the best."

There was a time when seemingly effortless victories smacked of something more sinister at the Tour:



Poland's Rafal Majka crosses the finish line to win the start of the seventeenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 124.5 kilometers (77.4 miles) with start in Saint-Gaudens and finish in Saint-Lary, France, Wednesday, July 23, 2014.

Associated Press

the use of performance-enhancers.

Few know the scars of cycling's doping past more than Majka's own manager at the Tinkoff-Saxo Bank team, Bjarne Riis. Once a national hero in Denmark after winning the 1996 Tour, he admitted to using blood-booster EPO more than a decade later — and was vilified for it. He laid low for a while, but then returned to the pro cycling world.

"I promised Bjarne today that I would win the stage," said Majka.

The echoes of doping resonated Wednesday on the grassy Pyrenean mountainside: The last times that Saint-Lary-Soulan hosted a Tour stage finishes were in 2001 and 2005 — won by Lance Armstrong and teammate George Hincapie. Those wins were later stripped because of

doping. Their names have been crossed out in the official Tour history book.

Cycling has made great strides in fighting doping with enhanced blood and urine testing, along with the biological passport program, but few experts would claim that the peloton today is entirely clean. Nibali, who has called himself a "flag-bearer of anti-doping", made his latest case to become the first Italian to win cycling's showcase race in 16 years — since Marco Pantani, who was once convicted for doping.

Nibali gained just under a minute on four of his closest rivals. Second-placed Alejandro Valverde of Spain, who made a valiant recovery on the last ascent to avoid even more damage, now trails by 5 minute, 26 seconds.

The exception was Jean-Christophe Péraud of France, who hugged closely on the leader's back wheel and finished fourth. With his performance, the 37-year-old Frenchman made it an even closer race for the podium spots. He is fourth overall, 6:08 behind Nibali, but just eight seconds slower than fellow Frenchman Thibaut Pinot, in third.

American Tejay van Garderen, in sixth, also lost about a minute to Nibali and now trails by 10:19. It came a day after his hopes for a podium spot were dealt a big blow when he lost several minutes to the other aspirants for a top-3 finish in Paris.

"Yesterday was a pity, it was an off day," the BMC leader said. A podium spot is still possible, he added, "but it will be hard." □

Testimony ends in trial over \$2B Clippers sale

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Testimony has ended in the trial to determine whether Donald Sterling's estranged wife can sell the Los Angeles Clippers.

Shelly Sterling, who had

testified early in the trial, was expected to be the final witness Wednesday, but her husband's lawyers decided not to call her to the stand.

Instead, they called a psy-

chiatric expert to discuss the protocol of examinations like the ones given to Donald Sterling to determine his mental competency and ability to act as owner. □



In this June 15, 2009, file photo, Richard Parsons, then Chairman of Citigroup, speaks at Time Warner's headquarters in New York. Parsons, the interim CEO of the Los Angeles Clippers, is expected to be called as a witness Tuesday, July 22, 2014, to support Shelly Sterling's bid to sell the NBA basketball team for \$2 billion to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer.

Associated Press

Survey finds sharp increase in teen use of HGH

DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Experimentation with human growth hormones by America's teens more than doubled in the past year, as more young people looked to drugs to boost their athletic performance and improve their looks, according to a new, large-scale national survey.

In a confidential 2013 survey of 3,705 high school students, being released Wednesday by the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, 11 percent reported using synthetic HGH at least once — up from about 5 percent in the four preceding annual surveys. Teen use of steroids increased from 5 percent to 7 percent over the same period, the survey found.

Travis Tygart, CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, depicted the numbers as alarming but not surprising, given the extensive online marketing of performance-enhancing substances and near-total lack of any drug testing for high school athletes.

"It's what you get when you combine aggressive promotion from for-profit companies with a vulnerable target — kids who want a quick fix and don't care about health risk," Tygart said in an interview. "It's a very easy sell, unfortunately."

Nine percent of teen girls reported trying synthetic HGH and 12 percent of



In this April 27, 2014 photo provided by Donald Hooton Sr., Donald Hooton Jr. addresses players at the USA Football regional football camp about the potential dangers of using performance-enhancing substances at the Houston Sports Park in Houston.

Associated Press

boys.

"A picture emerges of teens — both boys and girls — entering a largely unregulated marketplace (online and in-store) in which performance-enhancing substances of many varieties are aggressively promoted with promises of improved muscle mass, performance and appearance," said the report. "This is an area of apparently growing interest and potential danger to teens that cries out for stricter controls on manufacture and marketing." Given the high cost of authentic HGH, it's possible that some of the teens who reported using it may in fact have obtained fake

products. As the survey said, "It's very difficult to know what exactly is in the substances teens are consuming, or what the short and long-term impact on their health may be."

Steve Pasierb, president of the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, said the motives of today's youthful dopers were different from the rebellious or escapist attitudes that traditionally accompanied teen drinking and pot-smoking.

"This is about how you feel, how you look," Pasierb said. "They're doing this thing to get ahead. ... Girls want to be thin and toned. For a lot of boys, it's about their six-pack."

He urged parents to talk candidly with their children about the dangers of performance-enhancing substances, but to avoid moralizing.

"It's not about illegality, or whether you're a good parent or bad parent," he said. "It's a health issue. These substances literally alter your body."

Pasierb said high school coaches have a key role in combatting doping. Some are vigilant, others oblivious and perhaps a third are prepared to tolerate doping in the interests of winning, he said.

The new survey noted that the upsurge in teen HGH use occurred even

as famous athletes were caught up in high-profile doping cases. Last August, Major League Baseball punished Alex Rodriguez with a lengthy suspension after investigating his use of performance-enhancing drugs. A few months earlier, Lance Armstrong admitted in a TV interview to doping throughout his cycling career.

One of Armstrong's former teammates is Tyler Hamilton, who was forced to return his 2004 Olympic gold medal after being found guilty of doping. In recent public appearances, Hamilton has implored young athletes to resist the temptation to dope.

"There's so much pressure on winning — it's tough for these kids to stay true to themselves," he said. "I can't change every kid's mind, but if I can do my part and other people do their part, we can beat this monster." Tygart, who as USADA's chief oversaw investigations of Armstrong and Hamilton, noted that stringent testing regimens are an increasingly effective deterrent to doping among athletes in major pro sports and in international competitions.

"But most young athletes are not in any testing program, and their chance of getting caught is zero," he said. "When left unchecked, the win-at-all-cost culture will take over and athletes will make the wrong decision." □



In this photo taken on Monday, July 21, 2014, a worker installs a sign covering up a Nike logo on the scoreboard at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore., during preparations for this week's world junior athletics championships.

Associated Press

Adidas covers swooshes at Nike's hometown track

EUGENE, Oregon (AP) — Adidas has invaded the birthplace of Nike.

Crews preparing for this week's world junior track championships at Hayward Field covered the Nike swooshes and pinned Adidas posters to the fence alongside the track, The Register-Guard newspaper reported.

Adidas can take that action in Nike's hometown because of its sponsorship

deal with the International Association of Athletics Federation.

As part of the sponsorship, the German multinational receives a "clean venue" at Hayward Field, free of its rivals' logos.

The agreement does stop short of throwing a paper bag over the statue of Bill Bowerman, the Nike co-founder and legendary University of Oregon track coach.

Athletic clothing and shoe companies spend a lot of money to sponsor sporting events, where their brands are seen by fans in the stadium and the broader television audience.

"It's a normal branding policy that you see at all major events," said Vin Lananna, the former University of Oregon track coach who is now president of Track-Town USA, the local organizing committee. □

Get paid for posts? Social networking's new twist

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- Facebook and most other social networks are built on the premise that just about everything should be shared -except the money those posts produce.

At least two services are trying to change that. Bubbles, a social network that came out of an extended test phase last week, pays users for posts that attract traffic and advertisers. Another company, Bonzo Me, has been doing something similar since early July.

"I just feel like everyone on social networks has been taken advantage of for long enough," says Michael Nusbaum, a New Jersey surgeon who created Bonzo Me. "Facebook has been making a ton of money, and the people providing the content aren't getting anything."

Bubbles' compensation formula is more complex. It's based on the number of times that each post is clicked on or provokes some other kind of networking activity. To start, the payments are expected to translate into just a penny per view, comment or like. Bubbles plans to pay its users in \$50 increments, meaning it could take a while for most users to qualify for their first paycheck unless they post material that goes viral.

"No one should come to our site in anticipation of being able to quit their day job," Bubbles CEO Arvind Dixit says. "But we are trying to be fair with our users. Social networks don't have to be places where you feel like you're being exploited."

Bubbles is also trying to make its service worthwhile for users by encouraging deeper, thoughtful posts instead of musings about trifling subjects. To do that, it requires each post to span at least 400 characters, or roughly the opening two paragraphs of this story.

Technology analyst Rob Enderle believes Bubbles, or something like it, eventually will catch on.

"I don't think this free-con-



In this photo taken Wednesday, July 16, 2014, Gerry Kelly, founder of clothing brand Sonas Denim and a Bubbles user, poses near his home in San Francisco.

Associated Press

tent model is sustainable," Enderle says. "You can't sustain the quality of the product if you aren't paying people for the content that they are creating. And you can't pay your bills if all you are getting are 'likes.'" Gerry Kelly of San Francisco has already earned nearly \$100 from Bubbles since he began using a test version in January. His Bubbles feed serves as a journal about the lessons he has learned in life, as well as a forum for his clothing brand, Sonas Denim.

Though Facebook is by far the largest social network, it has a history of irking users. People have complained when Facebook changed privacy settings in ways that exposed posts to a wider audience. They have criticized Facebook for circulating ads containing endorsements from users who didn't authorize the marketing messages. More recently, people were upset over a 2012 experiment in which Facebook manipulated the accounts of about 700,000 users to analyze how their moods were affected by the emotional tenor of the posts flowing through their pages. Facebook apologized.

Kelly still regularly posts on his Facebook page to stay in touch with friends and

family, but says he is more leery of the service.

"They just take all your information and make all the money for themselves. It's insane," Kelly says.

Despite the occasional uproar, Facebook Inc. has been thriving while feeding off the free content of its nearly 1.3 billion users. The Menlo Park, California,

company now has a market value of \$175 billion, and CEO Mark Zuckerberg ranks among the world's wealthiest people with a fortune of about \$30 billion, based on the latest estimates from Forbes magazine.

Advertisers, meanwhile, are pouring more money into social networks because that is where people are spending more time, particularly on smartphones. Facebook's share of the \$140 billion worldwide market for digital ads this year is expected to climb to nearly 8 percent, or \$11 billion, up from a market share of roughly 6 percent, or \$7 billion last year, according to the research firm eMarketer.

Although it still isn't profitable, short-messaging service Twitter is also becoming a bigger advertising magnet, thanks largely to its 255 million users who also provide a steady flow of free content.

Twitter admits to diversity problem in workforce

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- Twitter acknowledged that it has been hiring too many white and Asian men to fill high-paying technology jobs, just like several other major companies in Silicon Valley.

The lack of diversity in Twitter's workforce of roughly 3,000 people was spelled out in data released Wednesday by the San Francisco company behind the popular short messaging service.

The breakdown revealed that 70 percent of Twitter's worldwide workforce is composed of men. In the U.S., nearly 90 percent of Twitter's workers are either white or Asian. Racial data wasn't provided for the global workforce.

Things look even worse when the numbers are boiled down to computer programming positions and other technology jobs that tend to pay the highest salaries. Just 10 percent

of those jobs are held by women worldwide. More than 90 percent of Twitter's technology jobs in the U.S. are being handled by whites and Asians.

Twitter's scarcity of women, black and Latino workers mirrors similar situations at Google Inc., Facebook Inc., Yahoo Inc. and LinkedIn Corp.

All of those companies have released their diversity data since late May in response to a campaign spearheaded by the Rev. Jesse Jackson and his Rainbow PUSH coalition.

Jackson has spent much of this year pressuring major Silicon Valley companies to diversify their workforces because the booming technology industry is expected to be a major source of employment for years to come. Many of those jobs pay six-figure salaries and dole out stock options that can become worth millions of dollars.

In a Wednesday statement, Jackson lambasted Twitter's diversity numbers as "pathetic" but called the disclosure of the problem as a "step in the right direction."

Twitter Inc. vowed to change its ways.

"We are keenly aware that Twitter is part of an industry that is marked by dramatic imbalances in diversity," Janet Van Huisse, the company's vice president of diversity and inclusion, wrote in a blog post.

Like some other technology companies, Twitter is supporting programs that teach women how to program computers and introducing internal training programs aiming to weed out biases.

Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook told reporters earlier this month that the iPhone and iPad maker plans to release its diversity data, too. He didn't say when that information will be released.

S&P 500 ekes out record high as earnings roll in

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market eked out a record high Wednesday, as investors weighed positive earnings from the technology industry against disappointing news from Boeing and other companies.

Biotechnology stocks were among the largest gainers. Among big tech names, Apple's earnings topped Wall Street expectations, helped by rising shipments of iPhones. Microsoft also announced results that beat forecasts.

So far, with less than a fourth of U.S.-listed companies reporting their quarterly financial performance, results have been coming in better than expected.

About 72 percent of Standard & Poor's 500 companies that have reported earnings have beaten expectations, and 73 percent have beaten sales forecasts.

"It's a little early, but things seem to be coming in OK," said Sahak Manuelian, managing director of equity trading at Wedbush Securities.

Investors have become increasingly optimistic about the latest quarter. On June 30, they expected earnings to rise 4.9 percent from a year earlier.

They now expect earnings

to increase 5.5 percent.

The S&P 500 rose 3.48 points, or 0.2 percent, to close at 1,987.01, beating its previous record from July 3 by less than two points.

The Nasdaq composite rose 17.68 points, or 0.4 percent, to end at 4,473.70.

The Dow Jones industrial average bucked the trend.

revenue Wednesday that missed analysts' expectations.

The Dow is a price-weighted index that has 30 stocks, so the movement of just one company can carry extra weight. Because Boeing is one of the Dow's most expensive stocks, it has an outsized impact.

tive trial results for an experimental breast cancer drug.

Puma rose \$174.40, or 295 percent, to \$233.43. Biogen Idec rose \$33.93, or 11 percent, to \$337.60 after its quarterly results came in above investors' expectations.

Unlike last week, investors



Trader Benedict Willis uses his mobile phone as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market eked out a record high Wednesday, as investors weighed positive earnings from the technology industry against disappointing news from Boeing and other companies.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

It fell 26.91 points, or 0.2 percent, to 17,086.63, and was dragged down by Boeing. The aircraft maker slipped \$3.03, or 2 percent, to \$126.71, the biggest fall in the Dow, after reporting

Biotechnology stocks, meanwhile, helped lift the other major indexes.

Puma Biotechnology, a drug development company, soared after the company disclosed posi-

were less focused on turmoil in Israel and Ukraine. However, market strategists say that with markets trading at all-time highs, any bad news could weigh on U.S. stocks. □

Cheaper wireless plans cut into AT&T 2Q profit

PETER SVENSSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — AT&T Inc. on Wednesday posted lower net income for the latest quarter due to cheaper cellphone plans it introduced as a response to aggressive pricing from smaller competitor T-Mobile US. AT&T said half of its wireless subscribers have already moved to "Mobile Share Value" plans, introduced in February. It's also adding subscribers to its Next plans, which carry lower monthly fees because customers pay full price for their phones.

On a conference call with analysts, executives de-

fended the new Next and Mobile Share Value plans, saying they boosted the number of new customers to the highest level in five years.

"We are very pleased with what we're seeing from our wireless repositioning, and we're confident in our strategy," said John Stephens, AT&T's chief financial officer.

Investors took the news mostly in stride. AT&T shares fell 51 cents to \$35.37 in extended trading after the release of the results.

The Dallas company said it earned \$3.55 billion, or 68 cents per share. That was down from \$3.82 billion, or

71 cents per share, in the same quarter last year.

Excluding some one-time items, AT&T's earnings were 62 cents per share in the latest quarter, a penny shy of the average estimate of analyst polled by FactSet. Revenue was \$32.58 billion, up 1.6 percent from a year ago.

Analysts polled by FactSet were expecting \$32.24 billion in revenue.

AT&T, the second-largest cellphone company, is dueling with No. 4 T-Mobile US, which has shaken up the industry with innovative pricing plans. T-Mobile has been raking in new subscribers in the last year, but

it hasn't yet revealed its results for the second quarter. It reports next week.

AT&T gained a net 1,026,000 customers on its contract-based "postpaid" wireless plans. The last time it posted a quarterly gain of more than a million customers for those plans was in 2009, when it was still the exclusive U.S. carrier of the iPhone.

Most of the net customer gain came from better retention of existing customers rather than recruitment of new ones. AT&T had its lowest-ever "churn" rate in the quarter, a measure of how many customers cancel service. □

Delta's Q2 profit rises 17 percent

ATLANTA (AP) — Delta Air Lines Inc. said Wednesday that second-quarter earnings rose 17 percent, topping analysts' expectations, as passengers flew more miles at higher average fares and fuel spending declined.

The results from Delta, the world's third-biggest airline company, produced a strong opening to the industry's results for the busy April-to-June quarter. American and United are scheduled to report second-quarter figures on Thursday, and analysts expect the biggest U.S. carriers to post large profits. Delta said it benefited from gains in corporate contracts and domestic traffic. Like other airlines, Delta has been adding flights cautiously and instead is cramming more passengers on each plane. The average flight was 86.3 percent full, a figure that would have seemed impossible not long ago.

The average fare per mile climbed 3.8 percent, and Delta also collected more from what it calls merchandising, such as charging extra fees for a roomier seat and for priority boarding.

The company's operating margin climbed to 15.1 percent, and it predicted margins of 15 percent to 17 percent in the third quarter. For the third quarter, however, Delta predicted slower growth in so-called unit revenue — the amount of money taken in for every seat flown one mile. That figure is closely watched in the airline business, and it jumped 5.6 percent in the June quarter. Delta predicted an increase of between 2 percent and 4 percent for the July-to-September period, compared with the same months in 2013. For the second quarter, the Atlanta-based company said that net income increased to \$801 million, or 94 cents per share, from \$685 million, or 80 cents per share, in the same quarter a year ago. □

Facebook 2Q earnings, revenue soar on mobile ads

The Associated Press

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP) —

Facebook is on a roll. The world's largest online social network posted sharply higher earnings on Wednesday as revenue from mobile advertising continued to grow, along with its user base.

The company's shares climbed nearly 4 percent in extended trading after the results came out, signaling that they could hit a record high when the stock market opens on Thursday.

Facebook Inc. (FB) said Wednesday that it earned \$788 million, or 30 cents per share, in the April-June period. That's up from \$331 million, or 13 cents per share, in the same quarter a year ago.

Adjusted earnings were

42 cents per share, handily beating Wall Street's expectations of 33 cents, according to a poll by Zacks Investment Research.



A man walks past a Facebook logo in an office on the Facebook campus in Menlo Park, Calif. Facebook reported quarterly financial results on Wednesday, July 23, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

Facebook's revenue jumped 61 percent to \$2.91 billion from \$1.81 billion in the same quarter a year

ago. Analysts expected \$2.8 billion. This was the fifth quarter in a row that Facebook beat Wall Street's forecasts.

Advertising revenue jumped 67 percent to \$2.68 billion. Mobile ad revenue, a closely watched figure,

was 1.66 billion, or 62 percent of Facebook's total advertising revenue for the quarter. In the first three months of the year, mobile ads accounted for 59 percent of Facebook's total ad revenue.

The steady increase indicates that Facebook is succeeding in steering advertisers to its mobile platform at a time when most of its users are using mobile devices to access the social network.

Facebook had 1.32 billion active users at the end of June, up 14 percent from a year earlier. On average, 829 million people used Facebook every day in June, up 19 percent from a year earlier. The number of people who log in at least once a day on mobile

devices was 654 million on average in June, up 14 percent from a year earlier.

"We had a good second quarter," said CEO Mark Zuckerberg in a statement. "Our community has continued to grow, and we see a lot of opportunity ahead as we connect the rest of the world." Facebook's stock jumped \$2.77, or 3.9 percent, to \$74.06 in extended trading after the results came out. The stock had closed up \$2.02 at \$71.29. Shares of the Menlo Park, California-based company have climbed \$16.64, or 30 percent, to \$71.29 since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has climbed 7.5 percent. The stock has more than doubled in the last 12 months. □

Deutsche Bank shares dip on reports of regulator's letter

JACK EWING

© 2014 New York Times

Deutsche Bank shares slipped slightly Wednesday, and its efforts to rebuild its reputation suffered another blow, after reports that a regulator in the United States had found serious problems with the bank's financial reporting procedures and oversight. Trading in the bank's shares was mixed, opening down before recovering

slightly. American depositary receipts of Deutsche Bank, which fell nearly 3 percent in late trading Tuesday on the New York Stock Exchange, recovered most of the loss, gaining 2.5 percent by midafternoon on Wednesday. Shares in Frankfurt, Germany, closed the day down about 0.6 percent.

Still, news reports of the criticism by regulators is a setback for Deutsche Bank

in its efforts to convince investors and the public that it is remaking itself to be more ethical and less risky. "This is another legacy issue that they will have to address to rebuild trust and confidence with the market," said James Chappell, an analyst at Berenberg Bank.

Jordan A. Thomas, a lawyer who represents a former Deutsche Bank risk analyst who filed a whistle-

blower claim against the bank, said that the Federal Reserve Bank of New York sent a letter in December to officials at the German bank notifying them of the findings of its review.

Thomas said he had seen a copy of the letter, and it directed Deutsche to fix problems in its financial reporting procedures - problems the letter said had existed for several years.

Anshu Jain, co-chief ex-

ecutive of Deutsche Bank, has acknowledged that the bank made serious errors in the years leading up to the financial crisis, and vowed to focus more on the interests of clients and society. The bank has reduced its dependence on borrowed money, tied bonuses more closely to long-term performance and introduced mandatory ethics seminars for managers. □

PepsiCo raises outlook, looks to new Lay's flavors

PURCHASE, N.Y. (AP) —

PepsiCo raised its forecast for the year on Wednesday and said its new Lay's potato chips — including a cappuccino variety — should help boost its profit in the months ahead.

The company, which also owns Tropicana, Gatorade and Quaker, said global volume for both its snacks and drinks rose 1 percent in the second quarter. The gains were relatively modest, but PepsiCo has been driving its financial performance with a cost-cutting plan expected to generate \$1 billion in savings this year.

In its Frito-Lay North America division, PepsiCo said lower prices helped lift sales volume. Although

the performance was muted, Chief Financial Officer Hugh Johnston noted in a phone interview that the unit is expected to benefit in the current quarter from the rollout of special flavors — Cappuccino, Mango Salsa, Wasabi Ginger and Bacon Mac & Cheese.

The varieties were recently announced as finalists for the company's annual "Do Us a Flavor" contest, which gives customers a chance to create a new variety that is sold nationwide. The chips have so far received mixed reviews, but the contest is designed to pique curiosity and drive people to stores. Johnston said such special flavors are also more profitable for the company,

even if the prices are the same as regular flavors. That's because PepsiCo



Bottles of Pepsi are seen at a grocery store in Springfield, Ill. PepsiCo reported quarterly financial results Wednesday, July 23, 2014.

(AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

puts fewer chips in those bags.

"There might be an ounce

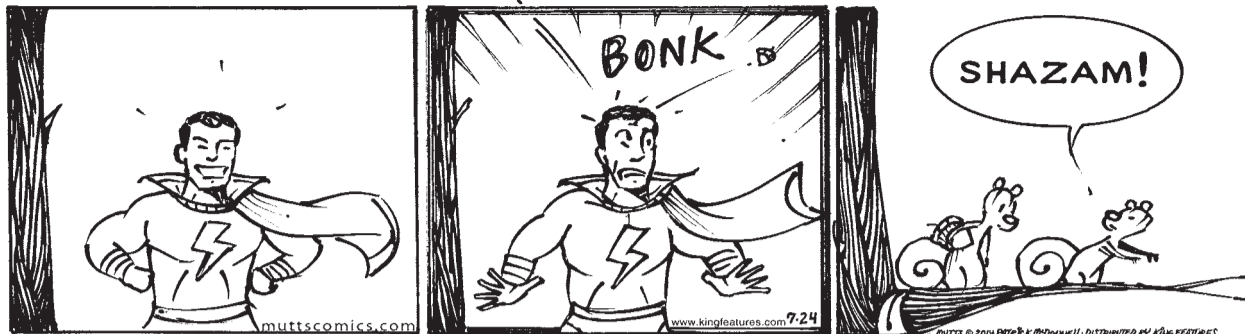
or two less," Johnston said. A representative for PepsiCo said regular Lay's

come in 10-ounce bags and flavored Lay's come in 9.5-ounce bags. At

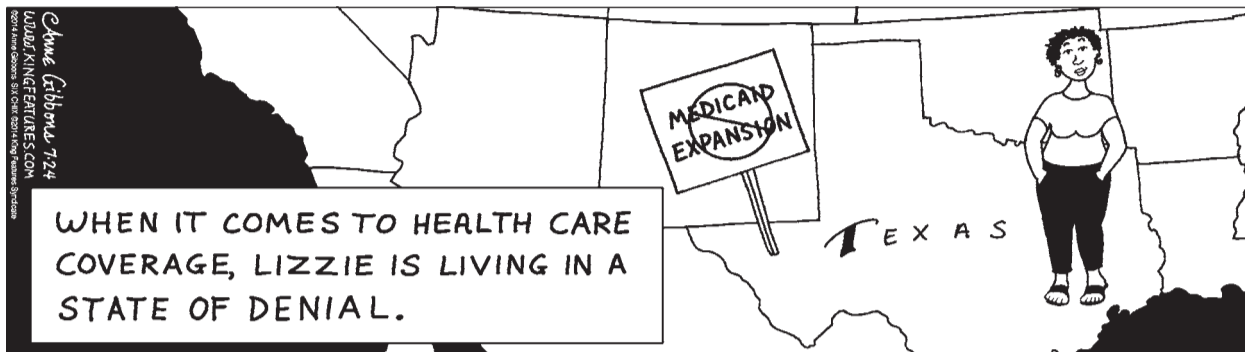
those sizes, all bags have a suggested price of \$4.29. In its closely watched North American beverage business, soda volume fell 2 percent while non-carbonated drinks rose 1 percent. On Monday, Coca-Cola also said non-carbonated drinks rose 1 percent, while soda volume was flat. The two companies have been struggling to boost beverage volumes in the region, given the growing competition from smaller players and the shift away from soda that has been underway for years.

PepsiCo now expects core earnings per share to rise 8 percent from 2013, instead of the 7 percent increase it previously forecast. □

Mutts



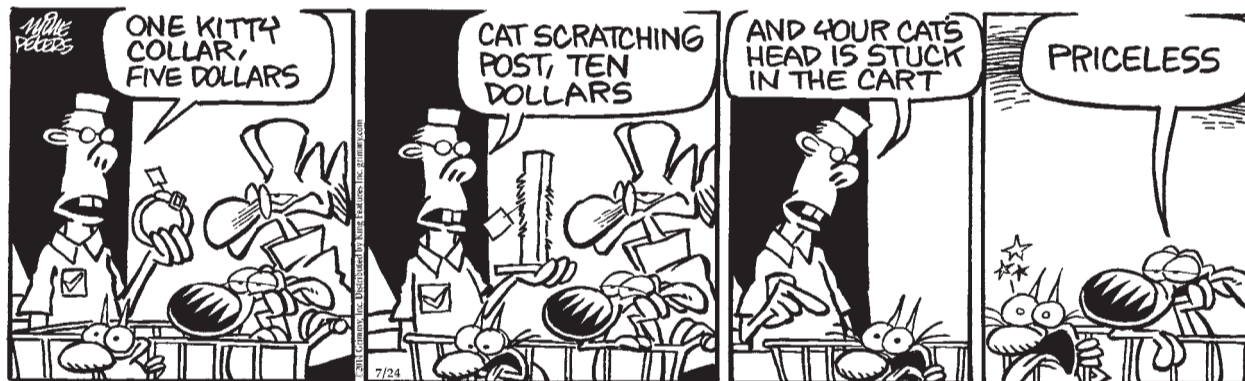
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6					7		
5		7		4		2		
	9		3				5	6
		3		8				
	8						9	
				9		4		
3	7				6		8	
		2		1		3		7
		4					6	

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	1	3	9	2	4	5	6	7
7	2	4	3	6	5	8	9	1
6	9	5	8	1	7	2	3	4
9	7	2	4	3	1	6	5	8
4	8	6	5	9	2	7	1	3
3	5	1	7	8	6	4	2	9
1	4	7	2	5	3	9	8	6
5	6	9	1	7	8	3	4	2
2	3	8	6	4	9	1	7	5

ACROSS

- Down the ...; eventually
- Young horses
- Setting for "The King and I"
- Wheel support
- Baby hooter
- Comedian and actress Meara
- Jewels
- Bring together
- Laundry soap brand
- Junior naval officers
- Natural environment
- Singer Stewart
- More ashen-faced
- __ mignon; beef entrée
- Close friend
- __ up; prepares
- Enthusiastic
- Actor Knotts
- Kleenex, e.g.
- Receptacle
- Fourth U.S. president
- Cheap metal
- Wiggle room
- Felon, for short
- Egg producers
- Child's writing assignment
- Firmament
- Funeral song
- Currently
- Tavern
- __ spring; spa
- Hot red sauce
- Fragrance
- Equestrian
- __ mein; Chinese dish
- Azure or indigo
- Happening
- Bring on board
- Transmit
- Pitcher Koufax
- Hostels

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21				22	23			
24				25								
26	27	28		29			30	31	32	33		
34				35			36					
37				38			39			40		
41		42			43				44			
45				46				47				
48				49			50					
51	52	53					54			55	56	57
58				59		60			61			
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/24/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

GLAD	SOFAS	LOBE
OILY	ERODE	ABED
LATE	NAUSEATING	
FRO	BILL	BETSY
GOALS	PAN	
TREBLE	DOCTOR	
HATED	CHEEK	REL
ACHY	WHEAT	LIMA
TEE	SHARD	RIGID
DRAWER	LEVITY	
DEN	LINEN	
STOVE	VAST	ABC
CAPITALIST	PLEA	
AXES	LEVEE	OLEG
MINE	LEARN	TYNE

(c) 2014 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

7/24/14

DOWN

- Intense anger
- Plow animals
- Charitable gift
- Wanted
- Discovered
- Possesses
- Actress Larter
- Deadly
- Take illegally
- Contemptuous writings
- "Put a sock ..."; cry to a windbag
- "... partridge in a pear..."
- Encounter
- Acquired
- Start
- Hysterical with fear
- Work by Aesop
- Crawling plants
- Queues
- Whale group
- Showy flower
- Regretting
- Good judgment
- Dennis or Doris
- 2,000 pounds
- City leader
- Teriyaki marinade
- Irrigated
- Small barbecue
- Spit
- Give a nickname to
- Shows courage
- Shindig
- Unruly crowds
- Not working
- Part of speech
- Take care of
- Lower leg part
- Iowa export
- Has debts
- TV room, often

Continued from Page 8

Fed Chair Janet Yellen has said she no longer sees a "systemic threat" from over-extended banks. Inflation has also been running below the Fed's 2 percent target. Not only have consumers enjoyed relatively stable prices, but the Fed has been able to stimulate growth by holding interest rates down without risking any immediate threat of igniting inflation. Americans have also used the recovery to return to school. The share of adults with advanced degrees jumped to 11.7 percent from 9.9 percent in 2007, according to the Census Bureau. During the recovery, the number of Americans with a college degree surpassed the number with only a high school diploma for the first time.

The unemployment rate for college graduates is 3.3 percent vs. 5.8 percent for high school graduates and 9.1 percent for high school dropouts. Someone with a master's degree earns on average \$69,108 a year, more than double what someone with only a high school diploma earns. Over time, more people with advanced degrees should put a greater percentage of Americans into better-paying skilled jobs. For now, though, some educated Americans have moved into jobs requiring only a high school degree and left many of those without degrees jobless. Just 54 percent of high school graduates are employed, compared with 60 percent before the recession. A similar development has occurred as workers have delayed retirement. □

Classifieds



Marriott Aruba Surf Club

GOLD Season
Oceanside \$9900
Oceanview \$9k
Oceanfront \$17k
3 BEDRM OV \$17k
PLATINUM Season
Oceanview \$16k
Oceanside \$17500
Oceanfront \$27,500
3 BEDRM OV \$27k
Plat. Plus Holiday 51
OV \$46k
Plat. Plus NY 52 OV
\$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

GOLD Season
2B Ocean view \$9k
2B Oceanfront \$14500
1B Oceanfront \$8500
PLATINUM Season
2B oceanview \$18500
2B Oceanfront \$29k
1B Oceanview \$11500
**Destination points
available between \$6.5
and \$7.5 per point.

We are the #1 Rental Timeshare agent for Aruba!

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners. Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any

888-888-2204 Ext 111
321-206-6293 Ext 111
321-250-7164 Fax

FaxWebsite:
www.concierge Realty.com

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

wk 9 Casa del Mar
1 br, unit 1326 start 7/19, \$2400
and wk 33 start 8/16 1 br
unit 1435 \$2200
Aruba Beach Club wk 32
start 8/9 superior rm 234 \$2975
Paradise Villas 1 br unit 310,
\$2300 8/9 start wk 32
e-mail rmwjmw@aol.com or
US 508 651 0016

FOR RENT OR SALE

Paradise Beach Villas
weeks 1,4,5 one bedr
weeks 1,8,9,31,32 two bdr
Casa del Mar
weeks 27+28 two bedr
All gorgeous pool-beach-ocean-
sunset views!
wks can be switched
call. 941-343-1088 USA

TIME SHARE RE-SALES

La Cabana BRC
1 bedroom week 29
room #140-C. Saturday check
in ground floor at the pool
price: \$6500
Call: (297)747 3602
we sell, we rent, and we buy
house and timeshare
info@arubatimetravel.com
www.arubatimetravel.com



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
ADVERTISING IN THE ARUBA TODAY
AVISO@BONDIA.COM

DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



Dr. Wijgaarde

EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

Oranjestad: DakotaTel: 588-7364
San Nicolas: Centro Medico Tel: 584-5794

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP

July 24

Carnival Breeze



Aruba Aiport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP CLINIC

Tel: 584-6440
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed

FUNDACION

Anti-Droga
Aruba
(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

FUNDACION

Respetami
Tel: 582-4433

Diabetic Foundation
Arubano

Tel: 583-3808
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor
pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties
Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba
Tel: 587-0002

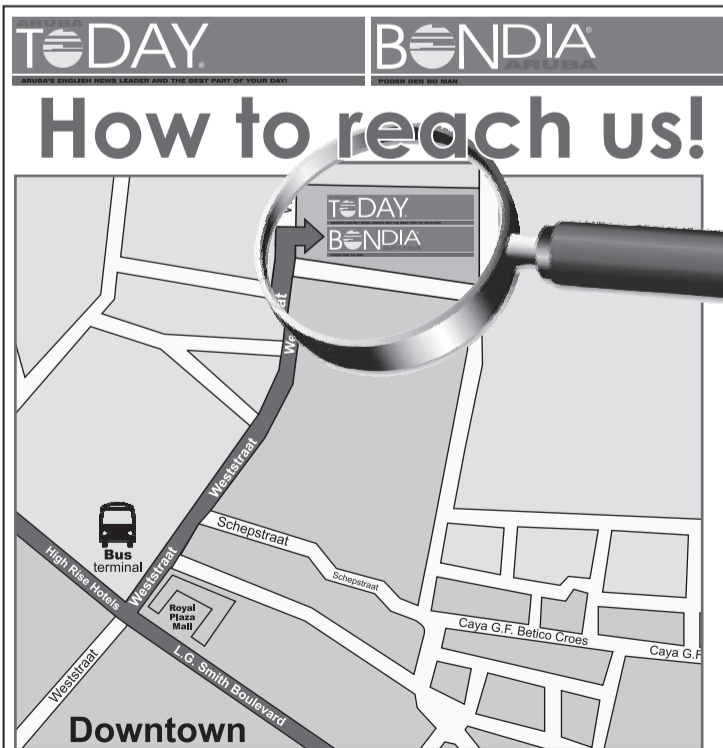
FOR SALE

Westpunt 29

This two storey villa comes with luxury kitchen and appliances, spacious living room with large covered porch, double garage, swimming pool, 3 spacious A/C bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, walk-in closet, upstairs office space or gym with balcony overlooking the backyard, pallasas, fountainan landscaped garden.

US \$ 799.000,-

Palm Beach 4-G
Tel.: 586 4242
www.arubahouses.com



HIV pills show more promise to prevent infection

The Associated Press

There is more good news about HIV treatment pills used to prevent infection in people at high risk of getting the AIDS virus: Follow-up from a landmark study that proved the drug works now shows that it does not encourage risky sex and is effective even if people skip some doses.

The research was discussed Tuesday at the International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia, and was published by the British journal *Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

It involves 1,600 gay men and transgender women who took part in the original study showing that daily use of the drug Truvada lowered the risk of getting HIV.

After the study ended, they were offered the chance to keep getting the pills for free, and three-quarters of them agreed. All were studied for another 17 months.

None who took the pills at least four days a week became infected. Even use two or three days a week lowered the risk of infection compared to taking the pills less often or not at all. Researchers could tell how often the drug was taken because they measured it in blood samples.

"We're encouraged," said study leader Dr. Robert Grant, an AIDS expert at the Gladstone Institutes, a foundation affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco. "There's a demand, there's some forgiveness for missed doses. And it's safe."



In this May 10, 2012 file photo, Dr. Lisa Sterman holds up a Truvada pill, an HIV treatment pill used to prevent infection in people at high risk of getting the AIDS virus, at her office in San Francisco. Associated Press

Mitchell Warren, who heads a nonprofit group that works on HIV prevention research, said in an email from Melbourne that "the story is now clear" that this approach "is real, it works, and it should be made available to people at risk now as part of high-impact combination prevention."

Condoms remain the best way to prevent HIV infection but not everyone uses them all the time, so health officials recommend other options for certain groups, such as gay men.

Some health officials had worried that taking Truvada might give a false sense of security and make men less likely to use condoms or to limit their partners. However, study participants re-

ported no increase in these behaviors, and there was no rise in syphilis or herpes, other sexually spread diseases that might suggest risk-taking.

The study was done in South America, Africa, Thailand, United States and paid for by the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

Truvada already is sold for treating HIV. It's a combination of two drugs, tenofovir and emtricitabine, or FTC, made by California-based Gilead Sciences Inc. Its wholesale price is \$800 a month in the U.S. but generic versions are available in other countries and they cost as little as 31 cents a day in Africa, Grant said.

"The main challenge is to find a way to make it more available," he said.

Audit: NASA doesn't have the money for big rockets

WASHINGTON (AP)—NASA does not have enough money to get its new, \$12 billion rocket system off the ground by the end of 2017 as planned, federal auditors say.

The Government Accountability Office issued a report Wednesday saying NASA's Space Launch System is at "high risk of missing" its planned December 2017 initial test flight. The post-space shuttle program would build the biggest rockets ever — larger than the Saturn V rockets which sent men to the moon — to send astronauts to asteroids and Mars.

"They can't meet the date with the money they have," report author Cristina Chaplain said. She said it wasn't because the space agency had technical problems with the congressionally-required program, but that NASA didn't get enough money to carry out the massive undertaking. The GAO report put the current shortfall at \$400 million, but did say NASA was "making solid progress" on the rocket

program design. NASA's launch system officials told the GAO that there was a 90 percent chance of not hitting the launch date at this time.

This usually means NASA has to delay its test launch date, get more money or be less ambitious about what it plans to do, said former NASA associate administrator Scott Pace, space policy director at George Washington University.

NASA is working on the problems GAO highlighted, but delaying launch or

diverting money from other programs would harm taxpayers, NASA Associate Administrator William Gerstenmaier wrote in the agency's response.

"Welcome to aerospace," Pace said, pointing out that large space projects often end up as much as 50 percent over budget. He said that "is why you shouldn't believe initial cost estimates."

The space agency has been reluctant to put an overall price tag on the Space Launch System.



Honey Dolls 24/7

Massage and escort service

Beautiful Latin Girls

Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

Red Light Tour

Bachelor Party Specialized, the best in the Caribbean

Call: 565-9535



Dumb Starbucks explained on Comedy Central show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dumb Starbucks is coming back, but only on TV.

The comic who came up with the fake-store concept will discuss its origins and aftermath on next Tuesday's episode of Comedy Central's "Nathan for You."

Star Nathan Fielder opened the Dumb Starbucks coffee shop in a Los Angeles strip mall in February. It quickly drew lines of curious residents, national media attention and legal scrutiny by the real Starbucks. The city's health department closed Dumb Starbucks after three days for not having the proper permits.

So far, Fielder, Comedy Central and parent company Viacom Inc. have



In this Feb. 10, 2014 file photo, Canadian comedian Nathan Fielder of the Comedy Central show "Nathan For You" comes forward as the brainchild of "Dumb Starbucks," a parody store that resembles a Starbucks with a green awning and mermaid logo, but with the word "Dumb" attached above the Starbucks sign.

Associated Press

escaped legal action. But Dumb Starbucks is done. Fielder said the shop was a parody about the power of corporate branding that

exceeded his expectations and ended up provoking discussion about how people consume art. □

'Sinister Six' spinoff to come next for Spider-Man



In this publicity photo released by Sony Pictures Entertainment, Andrew Garfield stars as Spider-Man in Columbia Pictures' "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Spider-Man franchise will detour next with a "Sinister Six" spinoff in 2016, pushing "The Amazing Spider-Man 3" to 2018, Sony's Columbia Pictures said Wednesday in announcing an updated schedule.

By ordering "Sinister Six" ahead of the next "Spider-Man" movie, the studio hopes to expand the franchise with the group of

Marvel super-villains. Released in May, "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" accumulated \$706 million worldwide and only just surpassed \$200 million domestically. That was considered a disappointing result, since it failed to top its 2012 predecessor, which made \$758 million. "Sinister Six," to be directed by Drew Goddard, is one of two spinoffs planned for

the Spider-Man universe. No date has been set for the other offshoot in development, "Venom." Sony had previously scheduled "Spider-Man" sequels for 2016 and 2018, but "The Amazing Spider-Man 3" will now be pushed to 2018. In its place, Sony has slotted in "Uncharted," an action film based on the PlayStation video game. □



Actor Shemar Moore arrives at the ESPY Awards at the Nokia Theatre on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Shemar Moore to return to 'Young and the Restless'

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Shemar Moore is returning to his daytime roots with a two-day guest appearance on "The Young and the Restless."

During his return on Sept. 10-11, Moore will reunite with Kristoff St. John, who plays his on-screen brother Neil Winters. Moore's character Malcolm Winters returns to Genoa City after leaving two years before without a proper goodbye. He comes back for a family visit to make amends and catch up.

Moore says he's excited about returning to the CBS show where he got his start. He was a "Young and Restless" regular from 1994-2002, left the show and returned in 2004-05. Moore won a Daytime Emmy for supporting actor in 2000.

Moore currently stars on the CBS drama "Criminal Minds."

"The Young and the Restless" recently won its eighth Daytime Emmy for best drama series. The show has been daytime's top-rated drama for 25 years. □

Stonestreet: Acceptance will grow for gay athletes

By JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) -- Actor Eric Stonestreet predicts that one day, it's not going to take an act of courage for an openly gay person to play in the NFL.

The "Modern Family" star says gay athletes eventually won't feel they need to keep their sexuality a secret. The two-time Emmy winner's comments follow announcements by Michael Sam and Jason Collins.

Sam came out as gay before this year's NFL draft. He was drafted by the St. Louis Rams. Collins, who played basketball for the Brooklyn Nets last season, is the first openly gay athlete to play in a professional league in North America.



This Jan. 18, 2014 file photo shows actor Eric Stonestreet arrives at the 20th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles.

Stonestreet plays Cameron Tucker, a gay man, on the popular ABC show. In a nod to same sex marriage, Cameron marries his partner in the season finale. □

CBS event marks civil rights anniversary

NEW YORK (AP) — A CBS News event Thursday marking the 50th anniversary of civil rights legislation is both a look back at history and a glimpse into future business opportunities for a broadcast news division. The live program, "CBS News: 50 Years Later, Civil Rights," moderated by Bob Schieffer features civil rights activist Harry Belafonte, U.S. Rep. John Lewis, actress Whoopi Goldberg and others. It will be shown at 8 p.m. EDT on the Smithsonian Channel and CBSNews.com, with Microsoft adding an interactive element allowing viewers to express opinions.

"I don't think I've ever felt as honored to be part of something as I am with this," said chief Washington correspondent Schieffer, who's bringing his twin 13-year-old granddaughters to New York's Ed Sullivan Theater to watch. Schieffer will host a discussion with relatives of Freedom Riders killed in the South, hear Lewis' accounting of demonstrations and look at civil rights battles of today with a panel that includes Jason Collins, the first openly gay NBA player.



This March 10, 2005 file photo from CBS News shows newsman Bob Schieffer in New York.

Associated Press

Online, viewers can see testimonials from public figures about what the civil rights battle meant to them and watch footage of CBS News coverage from the time, including a Walter Cronkite-anchored special about the disappearance of three civil rights activists in Mississippi.

Schieffer, along with Bill Plante, is one of the few remaining CBS News figures with experience covering the issue. He remembers

as "the most terrifying night of my life" reporting on the enrollment of the first black student at the University of Mississippi, being in a crowd as snipers were shooting nearby.

Schieffer grew up in the segregated South, in Fort Worth, Texas, and said he didn't shake hands with a black person until he was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

"It wasn't because I didn't want to," he said. "They

lived on one side of town and we lived on the other and the two sides just didn't come together."

He said he wanted his grandchildren, and as many Americans as possible who had no experience with that time in history, to learn about it.

"What it says about America is part of our strength," he said. "Even when we make a mistake, we corrected a wrong that had been 200 years in the mak-

ing."

The event is being produced by a new unit, CBS Live Experiences. The idea is to create live events that use some of the expertise and archives of the news division. CBS has become more active in making some of its archival material available, replaying online several days of coverage surrounding John F. Kennedy's assassination at the time of that event's 50th anniversary.

Future anniversaries of news, cultural or big sports events could provide opportunities for programs on both national and local levels, said David Goodman, president of CBS Live Experiences. Networks are seeking revenue-producing ideas that go beyond advertiser-supported television shows. The division produced programming this past winter surrounding the anniversary of the Beatles' debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show." Goodman was previously in charge of producing music performances in association with David Letterman's show.

"The idea is 'let's do something more with the assets we already have,'" he said. □

Compelling characters in Atkins' 'The Forsaken'

OLINE H. COGDILL
Associated Press

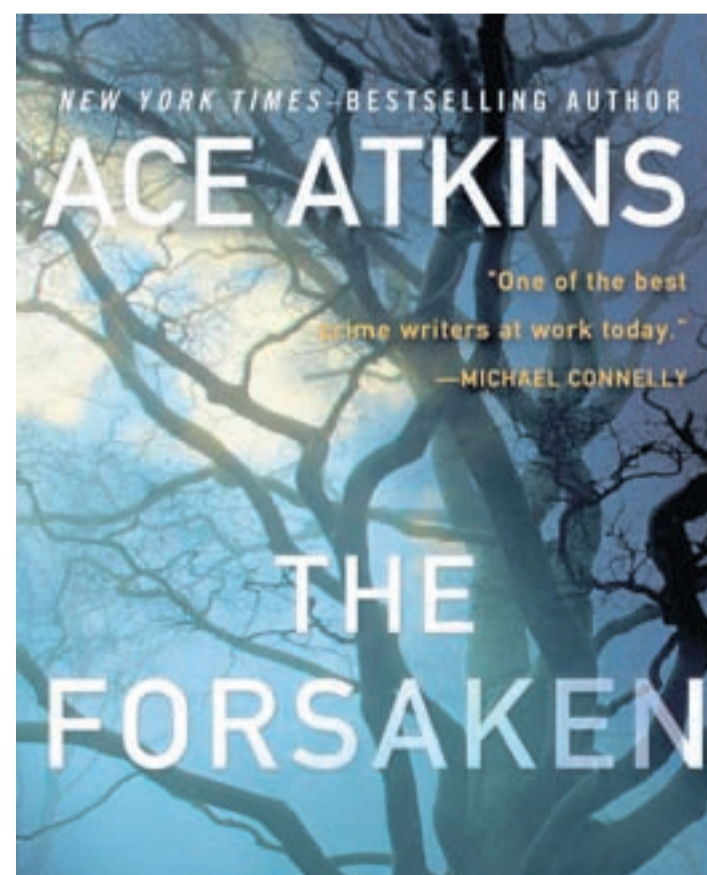
Sheriff Quinn Colson has been working to clean up corruption and injustice in Ace Atkins' compelling crime fiction series, but he can't change the past of Jericho, Mississippi, when he's faced with a decades-old crime that leads to scrutiny of his own past in "The Forsaken."

In the fourth novel of this solid series, Quinn is approached by Diane Tull, who, back in 1977, was raped on a country road when she was 17 years old. Her 14-year-old friend was murdered in the same assault. Three days later, a

group of local men found a black man they blamed for the attacks and brutally murdered him.

Now, 37 year later, Diane wants Quinn to reopen that old case because she is sure the wrong man was killed. Quinn's investigation leads to some uncomfortable facts about his father, who left his family more than 20 years ago and hasn't made contact in years with either Quinn or his younger sister, Caddy. Meanwhile, Quinn and his deputy, Lillie Virgil, are under investigation for killing two men who had tried to murder them. One of those men was a cop who

had been in the pocket of Johnny Stagg, a prominent Jericho businessman and politician who also runs a lucrative criminal enterprise. Atkins excels in solid pacing, effective dialogue and compelling characters in "The Forsaken." Quinn's background as a former U.S. Ranger and his relationship with his family, which includes his mother, sister and her young son, add texture to the series. A good soldier, Quinn has now found his calling as the sheriff. Atkins shapes Quinn not as a superman, but as a flawed man who wants to do the right thing for his hometown. □



This book cover image released by Putnam shows "The Forsaken," by Ace Atkins.

Associated Press

Did Dodd-Frank Work?



JOE NOCERA

© 2014 New York Times

Ralph Nader has written a new book, titled "Unstoppable: The Emerging Left-Right Alliance to Dismantle the Corporate State." If you spend any time looking into the current state of affairs with the Dodd-Frank Act - Monday was the fourth anniversary of the law enacted to ensure that the country never suffers through another financial crisis like the one in 2008 - you'd have to say that he has a point.

There are many aspects of the law on which Democrats and Republicans disagree. But there is one area in which the two sides are largely in agreement: "Too Big to Fail" is still with us.

"In no way, shape or form does the Dodd-Frank Act end too big to fail," said Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee.

"The chances of another financial crisis will remain unacceptably high as long as there are financial institutions that are 'too big to fail,'" Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., wrote in an opinion article she co-wrote with, among others, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. Dodd-Frank, of course, was supposed to end "Too Big to Fail," the catchphrase for a financial institution whose collapse had the potential to bring down the entire financial system. That prospect is why, less than a month after the bankruptcy of Lehman Bros., the government handed billions of dollars to the big banks to help stabilize them.

In some ways, eliminating the possibility of future bank bailouts was the whole point of Dodd-Frank. Partly this was for populist reasons: Americans were outraged that the banks were bailed out, while the country got the worst of the Great Recession. But it was also just good public policy. Karen Petrou, the managing partner of Federal Financial Analytics, told me that if the too-big-to-fail provisions in the law worked, "the rest of the law wouldn't matter that much because the market would discipline the institutions." But, she added, "I don't think the Federal Reserve or the FDIC" - the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. - "is prepared to handle a systemic crisis for one of the big banks."

To be sure, the Treasury Department insists that the days of "Too Big to Fail" are over. In a recent speech, Mary John Miller, the Treasury's undersecretary for domestic finance, said, "No finan-

cial institution, regardless of its size, will be bailed out by taxpayers again." She added, "Shareholders of failed companies will be wiped out; creditors will absorb losses; culpable management will not be retained and may have their compensation clawed back." But the markets don't believe it, and neither do most people who pay attention to Dodd-Frank.

There are two essential problems. The first is that it is hard to imagine that the government wouldn't blink, as it did in 2008. "Does anyone really believe that if any of the big banks were about to go down, that the government would allow that to happen?" asked Dean Baker, a co-founder of the progressive Center for Economic and Policy Research. "No."

The second problem is that it is difficult to envision how the law itself would "resolve" these institutions. In one part of Dodd-Frank, the banks are required to write "living wills," laying out how they could wind down without causing a financial catastrophe. Although they are now on their third round of living wills, the documents are thousands of pages, and the government hasn't yet told them whether the second round of living wills, filed a year or so ago, passed muster.

The law also says that if the regulators find the living wills too unwieldy and difficult to execute, it can force banks and financial institutions to shed assets and simplify their structures to make them easier to wind down. Warren and other lawmakers have pointed to this provision as something that could - if regulators pushed for it - force the banks to look more like they did pre-deregulation: with a division between commercial banks and investment banks.

Meanwhile, there is another part of Dodd-Frank that calls for banks to wind down through a process called orderly liquidation. In this scenario, the government puts the functioning parts of the bank into a new "bridge financial company" and forces the private sector - shareholders, certain creditors, even assessments on other financial institutions if it comes to that - to take losses. Although the Treasury Department insists that the law forbids public money from being used, there are a lot of economists who have a hard time believing that taxpayer money would not somehow be used if things got really bad.

One person who does believe is Sheila Bair, the former chairwoman of the FDIC. "I do think they could handle a big bank failure," she told me. "It would be messy and difficult, but they could do it."

Which is the ultimate problem: We have no way of knowing whether "too big to fail" still exists until we have another crisis. Let's just hope we don't have to find out anytime soon. □



The Fiscal Fizzle



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2014 New York Times

For much of the past five years readers of the political and economic news were left in little doubt that budget deficits and rising debt were the most important issue facing America. Serious people constantly issued dire warnings that the United States risked turning into another Greece any day now. President Barack Obama appointed a special, bipartisan commission to propose solutions to the alleged fiscal crisis, and spent much of his first term trying to negotiate a Grand Bargain on the budget with Republicans.

That bargain never happened, because Republicans refused to consider any deal that raised taxes. Nonetheless, debt and deficits have faded from the news. And there's a good reason for that disappearing act: The whole thing turns out to have been a false alarm.

I'm not sure whether most readers realize just how thoroughly the great fiscal panic has fizzled - and the deficit scolds are, of course, still scolding. They're even trying to spin the latest long-term projections from the Congressional Budget Office - which are distinctly non-alarming - as somehow a confirmation of their earlier scare tactics. So this seems like a good time to offer an update on the debt disaster that wasn't.

About those projections: The budget office predicts that this

year's federal deficit will be just 2.8 percent of GDP, down from 9.8 percent in 2009. It's true that the fact that we're still running a deficit means federal debt in dollar terms continues to grow - but the economy is growing too, so the budget office expects the crucial ratio of debt to GDP to remain more or less flat for the next decade.

Things are expected to deteriorate after that, mainly because of the impact of an aging population on Medicare and Social Security. But there has been a dramatic slowdown in the growth of health care costs, which used to play a big role in frightening budget scenarios. As a result, despite aging, debt in 2039 - a quarter-century from now! - is projected to be no higher, as a percentage of GDP, than the debt America had at the end of World War II, or that Britain had for much of the 20th century. Oh, and the budget office now expects interest rates to remain fairly low, not much higher than the economy's rate of growth. This in turn weakens, indeed almost eliminates, the risk of a debt spiral, in which the cost of servicing debt drives debt even higher.

Still, rising debt isn't good. So what would it take to avoid any rise in the debt ratio? Surprisingly little. The budget office estimates that stabilizing the ratio of debt to GDP at its current level would require spending cuts and/or tax hikes of 1.2 percent of GDP if we started now, or 1.5 percent of GDP if we waited until 2020. Politically, that would be hard given total Republican opposition to anything a Democratic president might propose, but in economic terms it would be no big deal, and wouldn't require any fundamental change in our major social programs.

In short, the debt apocalypse has been called off.

Wait - what about the risk of a crisis of confidence? There have

been many warnings that such a crisis was imminent, some of them coupled with surprisingly frank admissions of disappointment that it hadn't happened yet. For example, Alan Greenspan warned of the "Greece analogy," and declared that it was "regrettable" that U.S. interest rates and inflation hadn't yet soared.

But that was more than four years ago, and both inflation and interest rates remain low. Maybe the United States, which among other things borrows in its own currency and therefore can't run out of cash, isn't much like Greece after all.

In fact, even within Europe the severity of the debt crisis diminished rapidly once the European Central Bank began doing its job, making it clear that it would do "whatever it takes" to avoid cash crises in nations that have given up their own currencies and adopted the euro. Did you know that Italy, which remains deep in debt and suffers much more from the burden of an aging population than we do, can now borrow long term at an interest rate of only 2.78 percent? Did you know that France, which is the subject of constant negative reporting, pays only 1.57 percent?

So we don't have a debt crisis, and never did. Why did everyone important seem to think otherwise?

To be fair, there has been some real good news about the long-run fiscal prospect, mainly from health care. But it's hard to escape the sense that debt panic was promoted because it served a political purpose - that many people were pushing the notion of a debt crisis as a way to attack Social Security and Medicare. And they did immense damage along the way, diverting the nation's attention from its real problems - crippling unemployment, deteriorating infrastructure and more - for years on end. □

In Manhattan, a Mad Dash to Points South

JOHN KOBLIN

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - Over the last four years, the Lamb's Club has evolved into the Condé Nast canteen. On any given afternoon, you might spot Anna Wintour holding court at her corner table, dining with CBS chief executive Les Moonves, Tory Burch or Tommy Hilfiger. Nearby, you might find the W editor Stefano Tonchi exchanging a quick handshake with Jason Wu or Michael Kors on his way out. Condé Nast publishers, editors and executives work the dining room every day and bring in as much as "20 percent of our daily breakfast and lunch business," said David Rabin, an owner of the restaurant on 44th Street.

But with Condé Nast's impending move to the World Trade Center, just how will this scene be replicated in the dreary wilderness that is the Financial District? Easy: Midtown businesses that Condé Nast editors and publishers depend on every day are looking to head south.

"I would say it's a mission of mine to get down there," Rabin said. "Immediately, as soon as we heard it, we started thinking, 'How could we do this?'"

In the last few months, restaurants, blow bars and major fashion labels have been angling for new homes near the World Trade Center, and largely for one reason. Between November and February 2015, about 2,300 Condé Nast employees will be migrating to open floor plans at 1 World Trade Center. Those couple of thousand employees will have pages to fill and expense accounts to use. And these businesses want in. "With Condé Nast going down there, it's a game changer," said Nadine Abramcyk, a co-owner of the upscale nail salon Tenoverten. "To be close to all those employees would be amazing. You want to be, like, the first mover."

Abramcyk was initially delighted when she heard about the move. She had

a salon in Tribeca, about a 15-minute walk from 1 World Trade Center. But then she thought about it some more and realized something: That's not walkable in heels.

"The truth is, we're too far," she said, adding that Condé Nast represents a significant portion of her business. "They're not going to leave to go out for a manicure in Tribeca," she said. "You really need to be eight or 10 blocks farther south."

She said she was looking

to him; he cited it several times in an interview.) The two have a close relationship: The salon prepared about 40 Vogue staffers for this year's Met gala.

"We've been called the house salon of Condé Nast and are very, very committed to supporting that relationship," Hedges said. "When we had the opportunity to serve that community in an even closer way than we already do, we jumped at it."

Hedges may find some

the better part of the last decade trying to convince would-be tenants that a revitalization was right around the corner, are finding their jobs much easier now.

"Condé Nast was a huge catalyst in the transformation and perception of downtown," said Ed Hogan, Brookfield's national director of retail leasing. "It was pretty much a financial services market before. There's diversification now, and that made the overall retail market more attrac-

outlets in the area.

"I hope it's not going to look like the Time Warner building," said Tonchi, the editor of W, referring to the mall-like appearance of the Columbus Circle shopping center. Others share that sentiment.

"We were approached by Brookfield Place, but that didn't seem like the right fit for us," Abramcyk said. "You want to maintain the character of your business, and that seemed sort of mall-ish."



One World Trade Center in New York, where Conde Nast is soon to take up residence as an anchor tenant. The arrival of some 2,300 staffers at titles like Vogue, Vanity Fair and GQ is likely transform Lower Manhattan's staid Financial District, where restaurants and hair salons are already angling for space.

(Emily Andrews/The New York Times)

for space and that she was "90 percent confident" that the salon would have something close to the World Trade Center by the time Condé Nast moves downtown.

The John Barrett hair salon is even further along in the process.

The salon, which has space at Bergdorf Goodman, has a fully executed letter of intent to open up "about 50 paces from the elevators of Condé Nast," said Jim Hedges, the chief executive of John Barrett Holdings. (The precise number of steps is really important

competition.

"It's fair to say we have quite a few Condé Nast clients," said Alli Webb, the founder of Drybar, laughing.

Webb said Drybar was closing in on a space very close to 1 World Trade Center, and, if all goes according to plan, would be moved in by early next year. And just how important is Condé Nast to her business? She said that her client database contained more than 400 unique @condenast.com email addresses.

Downtown retail real estate brokers, who have spent

tive to a larger audience." Last Wednesday, Wintour and more than a dozen Vogue staff members got a good look at the Oculus at a CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund event.

They were two stories below street level, surrounded by police officers and men in hard hats. It was all very much unfinished. Greeting them at the entrance of the site was an orange spray-painted sign resting on a concrete slab that read "LASER IN USE."

It's an impressive space, but there are some concerns about the new retail

Authenticity remains important to Condé Nast editors. Tonchi said he wanted to find an old Wall Street bar. Rapoport of Bon Appétit said he wanted to find an old bar, too, something equivalent to Jimmy's Corner, on 44th Street.

"The shopping I'm not worried about, the shopping is covered," said Architectural Digest editor Margaret Russell, laughing. Her top needs? A good diner, a place to get flowers and a good wine store because, she said, the commute is about to become a bit more complicated. □